

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

5 MAY 1987

Inter-Arab Affairs

Moroccan-Algerian Summit — In a joint communique issued at the end of their 4 May summit meeting on the Algerian-moroccan border, King Hassan II and President Chadli Bendjedid agreed to continue contacts between Morocco and Algeria with the aim of solving existing problems. The communique, which was carried by SPA, also expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the "noble efforts" of Saudi King Fahd, who arranged and attended the meeting. At the end of the meeting, which took place in an Algerian agricultural village, King Fahd accompanied King Hassan back to Morocco, SPA reported, noting that Fahd will return to Riyadh 5 May at the end of a "historic" tour in which his efforts to make progress toward Arab unity were "crowned with success."

A related report by Algiers radio confirmed that the Moroccan-Algerian talks focused on the conflict in the Western Sahara. The summit was a fresh opportunity for Bendjedid to express Algeria's well-known attitude on this issue, APS subsequently noted, adding that Algeria has no intention of negotiating on behalf of others as it respects the right of the Saharan people to negotiate on their own behalf.

Polisario's chief representative in Europe told Paris radio he is "skeptical" about the outcome of the meeting and he issued a communique accusing Morocco of seeking to resolve the Western Sahara conflict through military force, according to KUNA.

Alleged Syrian-Iraqi Meeting — An Israeli security source cited by Jerusalem radio "confirmed" that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad held talks in Jordan last week, adding that this is why King Husayn canceled a planned visit to Egypt. On the other hand, the UAE paper *Al-Ittihad* linked the cancellation of Husayn's talks in Egypt with the question of relations with the PLO, WAM reported. The paper said the king decided to postpone his talks with President Husni Mubarak after receiving telephone calls from Saddam Husayn, who is working to restore the PLO's relations with Jordan and Egypt.

While Syrian and Iraqi media have not been observed to comment on the reported meeting between Al-Asad and Saddam Husayn, a Damascus radio commentary said that "increasing international pressure" to convene an international conference makes it necessary for the Arabs to "review the state of inter-Arab relations" and engage in "close cooperation" to liberate occupied Arab territory. Libya's JANA commented on the reported Iraqi-Syrian summit, stating that Libya will be "pleased" if the talks did indeed take place "because we dream of the reconstruction of the northern front after the southern front has collapsed through Egypt's recognition of the Zionist enemy." The agency added that unity between Syria and Iraq is natural and necessary.

Lebanon

Prime Minister Rashid Karami announced his resignation in a speech broadcast by Beirut radio, asserting that he had "no alternative" in a situation where "everything that is happening is harmful to the interests of the Lebanese people and Lebanon in general." Karami linked his resignation with the cabinet's inability to agree on political and economic measures, and he deplored "the frenzied posturing, oneupmanship, and the slips of the tongue" by the different cabinet ministers. He gave further explanations for his resignation in an *Al-Safir* report cited by Voice of Lebanon radio, denouncing "capricious decrees and individual decisions" made by ministers and deploring the "shameful" remarks expressed by PSP leader Walid Junblatt in a 1 May speech.

The Voice of Lebanon also broadcast remarks on the subject by former President Camille Sham'un, who said Karami has chosen to "run away" and shirk his responsibilities rather than adopt the "radical and harsh" measures needed to save Lebanon from the social, economic, and financial dangers facing it. President Amin al-Jumayyil subsequently announced his intention to deal with the cabinet crisis in accordance with constitutional norms, the radio reported. Beirut radio noted that Syrian and Lebanese forces took strict security measures in the wake of Karami's resignation announcement.

Israel

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will present his international conference proposal at a special cabinet session 10 May, Jerusalem radio reported, noting that agreement on this date was reached during talks between Peres and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

In contrast to Shamir, Peres told Jerusalem radio that Jordan's recent statement on the international conference issue represents "progress," pointing out that Jordan proposed inviting the PLO to a conference under conditions that are "rather similar" to U.S. conditions and include a call to renounce terrorism. Jordanian sources cited by *The Jerusalem Post* disclosed that Syria has indicated its willingness to go along with Jordan's conditions for an international conference, noting that Syria has been pushed to soften its stance because of a worsening economic situation.

PLO

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has decided to reopen the PLO office in Tripoli, according to a Palestinian source cited in a WAKH report on the Libyan leader's talks with Khalil al-Wazir, the PLO's deputy military commander. A Tripoli television report on the meeting noted that Al-Wazir briefed Col al-Qadhdhafi on the results of the Algiers PNC and on the Palestinian situation.

As for the PLO's relations with Morocco, TAP cited Palestinian sources in Baghdad who stated that Saudi Arabia has succeeded in containing the political crisis between the two sides and disclosed that the PLO office in Rabat is functioning normally.

Libya

Cooperation Talks in Moscow — Foreign Liaison Secretary Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi arrived in Moscow for talks on further cooperation in the petroleum industry and other areas, Moscow radio reported.

Troops in Sudan — Libyan troops are still in the western Darfur region, according to an *Al-Ayyam* report cited by SUNA. The newspaper's source called for a "political decision" to resolve the problem of Libyan soldiers supporting the Chadian opposition from Sudan's territory.

Iran

"What befell the U.S. Marines in Beirut can happen to any party," a Tehran radio commentary warned, adding that the Islamic forces' experience in Lebanon has been "very successful." The commentary decried the U.S.-USSR "joint conspiracy" to prevent the fall of the Iraqi regime, especially Moscow's "continued insistence" on "open support" for Iraq, and cautioned the Soviet leadership to be more attentive to the "negative effects" its pro-Iraqi stand might have on Muslim public opinion.

Another commentary carried by the station reiterated that Iran "will inevitably retaliate" against the Kuwaiti Government's "hostilities" in providing facilities to Iraq. The station urged Kuwait to review its "maniacal policies" and cease its "unruly behavior" before Iran "loses its patience."

DRA

Babrak Karmal to USSR — Babrak Karmal, former PDPA general secretary, left for "medical treatment and rest" in the USSR 4 May on the advice of his physicians and by invitation, Kabul radio reported. Prior to his departure, he met with PDPA General Secretary Najibullah and other officials.

Talks With India — Najibullah and Indian Foreign Minister N.D. Tiwari held talks during which they praised the two countries' "sincere, historical, and friendly" relations, Kabul radio reported. According to Delhi radio, they discussed the possible impact of Pakistan's acquisition of new weaponry from the United States. An agreement to expand cooperation in a variety of fields was signed during Tiwari's visit.

Pakistan

A bomb blast in a Miram Shah mosque killed 7 worshippers and injured 11, *Kyodo* reported. Two people were also wounded by another explosion in a park, and a third bomb damaged the office of a refugee administrator.

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS****Middle East & Africa**

Vol V No 086

5 May 1987

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i**INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS**

Saddam Husayn Calls Cancel Mubarak-Husayn Summit [WAM]	A 1
PLO Spokesman on Possibility of New Arab Summit [Voice of the PLO]	A 1
Saudis Contain 'Crisis' in Morocco-PLO Relations [TAP]	A 1
Al-Qadhdhafi Reopens PLO Office in Tripoli [WAKH]	A 1
Syria Detains Palestinians; Others Refused Entry [WAKH]	A 1
Habash Reaffirms Ties With Jordan, Egypt Role [QNA]	A 1
Fatah Dissident 'Atallah To Visit Egypt [Monte Carlo]	A 2
PLO Official Denies Threats Against Italy [WAKH]	A 2

ARABIAN PENINSULA**BAHRAIN**

Foreign Minister Leaves for Washington	C 1
--	-----

KUWAIT

Minister Denies Iran Seized Fishing Boats	C 1
Paper Views Iranian Attempt at 'Sedition' [AL-RAY AL-'AMM 3 May]	C 1
France, USSR Ready To Lease Oil Tankers [AL-RAY AL-'AMM 3 May]	C 2
'Arafat Holds Meeting With Foreign Minister	C 2
Discusses Proposed Summit	C 2
Addresses Mass Rally [Sanaa VOP]	C 2
Ends 2-Day Visit, Departs	C 3

PDRY

Al-'Attas Says Talks Held With YAR 'Successful'	C 3
---	-----

QATAR

'Arafat Arrives; To Meet Shaykh Khalifah [WAKH]	C 3
Received by Shaykh Khalifah	C 3

SAUDI ARABIA

King Fahd's Tour 'Crowned With Success'	C 4
---	-----

UAE

Deputy Prime Minister Invited To Visit PRC [WAKH]	C 4
---	-----

EGYPT

Sidqi Goes to Amman With Message for King Husayn	D 1
IMF Agreement Reportedly Takes Effect Mid-May	D 1
Agreement 'Important Step' [AL-AKHBAR 3 May]	D 1
Mustafa: Only Government Debts Rescheduled	D 2
AL-WAFD: 'Crisis' in Ties With U.S. About To End [27 Apr]	D 2
Political Parties React to PLO Office Closing [Kuwait AL-RAY AL-'AMM 30 Apr]	D 2

NPUGP Regrets Decision [AL-AHALI 29 Apr]	D 3
AL-AKHBAR on Lesson in Relations With PLO [3 May]	D 3
AL-AHRAM Calls Stand on PLO 'Objective Approach' [1 May]	D 4
Commentary Claims PLO 'Sold Out' Egypt for Funds	D 4
Soviet Ambassador Discusses Meeting With Mubarak	D 5
Paper Reports Negotiations on Soviet Arms [AL-KHALIJ 3 May]	D 5
Moroccan Diplomat Views Meeting With Mubarak	D 5
Ibrahim Shukri on Islamic State, Elections [UKTUBAR 26 Apr]	D 5
IRAQ	
Communique No 2,663 on Combat Actions 3-4 May	E 1
Saddam Praises War Production, Ba'th Party	E 1
JORDAN	
Egyptian Prime Minister, Delegation Arrive	F 1
Amman Press Carries Denial of Tripartite Summit	F 1
SAWT AL-SHA'B Views 'Israeli Maneuvers' [2 May]	F 1
'Zionist Hand' Seen in Hostile Campaign [SAWT AL-SHA'B 4 May]	F 1
LEBANON	
Karami Makes Statement on Resignation	G 1
Gives Reasons for Resignation [VOL]	G 1
Says Israelis in E. Beirut	G 2
Meets With Al-Jumayyil Adviser	G 2
Leaders React to Karami Resignation Decision	G 2
Al-Jumayyil Notes 'Disarray' [VOL]	G 2
Sham'un Criticizes Karami [VOL]	G 2
Al-Hussayni Criticizes Decision [VOL]	G 3
Al-Huss Comments	G 3
Parliamentarians Comment	G 3
'Strict' Security Measures Follow Resignation	G 3
Kan'an Arrives in West Beirut; Meets Ministers [RFL]	G 3
Communist Official Analyzes Iranian Role [Prague RUDE PRAVO 23 Apr]	G 3
SYRIA	
Cabinet Discusses Al-Asad Visit to USSR	H 1
Vice President Masharqah Addresses May Day Rally	H 1
Minister of Education Al-Sayyid Leaves for USSR	H 1
Damascus Radio on Need for Close Arab Cooperation	H 2
ISRAEL	
Shamir Interviewed on Conference, Other Issues	I 1
Peres: Peace Issue 'Justifies Elections'	I 6
Shamir 'Interested' in Meeting With Husayn [YEDI'OT AHARONOT 5 May]	I 6
Likud Vows To Block Peres' Conference Moves [THE JERUSALEM POST 5 May]	I 7
Egyptian Envoy Warns of 'Frozen' Peace	I 7
Jordanian 'Sources': Syria Might Join Conference [THE JERUSALEM POST 5 May]	I 7
Press Views International Conference Dispute	I 8
Poll Reveals Confidence in Coalition Declining [THE JERUSALEM POST 3 May]	I 8
Chief of Staff Urges Isolation of Violent Groups	I 9
'Dabura' Vessels To Patrol Coastal Waters [AL HAMISHMAR 3 May]	I 10
MK Visits Nicaragua, Meets Tourism Minister [AL HAMISHMAR 3 May]	I 10
PLO Seeks 'Active' Soviet Role on Conference [AL-FAJR 26 Apr]	I 10
AL-FAJR Views Developments After PNC Session [1 May]	I 11

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

Communique Issued on Benguela Railroad Summit [AZAP]..... P 1

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Tripartite Summit Held in Border Village Q 1
 Bendjedid, Fahd Leave Oran Q 1
 Two Rounds of Talks Held [Rabat] Q 1
 SPA on 'Second Summit' Q 1
 Border Summit Concludes Q 1
 Communique Issued [SPA] Q 2
 APS Comments on Summit Q 2
 Polisario 'Skeptical' [Paris] Q 3
 Polisario Backs UN Peace Plan [KUNA]..... Q 3

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Guadeloupe Liberation Envoy Q 3
 Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Reunion Liberation Official Q 3
 JANA Editor Calls Syrian-Iraqi Unity 'Natural' Q 3

SUDAN

Official Says Defense Pact With Egypt in Effect [MENA] Q 3
 State Council's Al-Din Meets Ethiopian Minister Q 4

EAST AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Delivers May Day Speech in Addis Ababa R 1
 Rebel Radio Gives Details of Military Operations [Voice of the Broad Masses]..... R 3

KENYA

President Moi Delivers May Day Speech in Nairobi R 3

UGANDA

Prime Minister Reads Museveni May Day Speech R 4
 Memorandum on Border Affairs Signed With Rwanda [PANA]..... R 6

CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON

Chad Radio on Arrest of Libyans With Explosives S 1
 Biya Leaves for Official Visit to France 4 May [PANA] S 1
 Biya Comments on Trip [Paris]..... S 1
 Equatorial Guinea Emissary Delivers Message [PANA]..... S 1

CAR

Bokassa Trial Focuses on Loss of Funds, Oil [AFP]..... S 1
 Accountant Appointed for Audit [AFP]..... S 2

CHAD

'No Clouds' Over Relations With France	S 2
Commentary on Arrest of Libyans in Cameroon	S 2
Ndjamena Views Libreville OAU Meeting, ICJ Role	S 2
Fewer Than 50 Workers Attend May Day Meeting	S 3

RWANDA

Kenyan Foreign Minister Arrives on 5-Day Visit	S 3
Meets With Habyarimana	S 3

ZAIRE

AZAP Outlines Benguela Railroad Rehabilitation	S 3
--	-----

WEST AFRICA

BENIN

PRC Friendship Group Ends Visit, Departs	T 1
--	-----

BURKINA FASO

Further on Visits of Chad Opposition Leaders	T 1
Acheikh ibn Oumar Comments	T 1
BBC Reports Goukouni Remarks	T 1
Acheikh ibn Oumar Departs [AFP]	T 2
Foreign Minister Returns From Congo, Gabon	T 2

GHANA

Workers Hold May Day Rally; PNDC Member Speaks	T 2
Delegation Returns From Afghanistan, USSR	T 2
Ethiopian Leader Dispatches Envoys With Messages	T 3
13 Percent Growth Recorded in Industrial Sector	T 3

GUINEA

Communique Issued on May Day Celebrations	T 3
Trade Union Celebrates	T 4
Cooperation Agreement Signed With USSR	T 4

GUINEA-BISSAU

New Monetary, Budgetary Policies Adopted [AFP]	T 5
--	-----

NIGER

5-Year Development Plan Adopted 30 Apr	T 5
--	-----

NIGERIA

Clashes Occur Between Transport Owners, Workers	T 5
Fighting in Benin City	T 5
Bendel Police Confiscate Arms	T 5
Lagos University To Reopen 1 Week After Closure	T 5

SENEGAL

Interior Ministry Guidelines on Rehiring Police T 6

SIERRA LEONE

Seventeen Persons To Stand Trial for Treason [AFP]..... T 6
 Foreign Minister Koroma To Visit ROK 5 May [AFP]..... T 6

TOGO

Workers Praise President Eyadema on May Day T 6

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

Army Kills 18 UNITA 'Bandits' in Cuanza Sul U 1

BOTSWANA

President Masire Returns From Zimbabwe U 1

MOZAMBIQUE

Tanzania's Nyerere Arrives for Visit 2 May U 1
 Welcomed at Airport U 1
 Opens Talks With Chissano U 1
 Talks 'Very Successful' [Dar es Salaam]..... U 2
 Nyerere Departs 3 May U 2

NAMIBIA

Two Policemen Killed by SWAPO in North [SAPA]..... U 2
 Nujoma: SWAPO Ready for Cease-Fire 'Any Time' [SAPA]..... U 2

SOUTH AFRICA

Police Break Up Witwatersrand Student Meeting U 3
 Magistrate Bans Gathering U 3
 Police Enter Campus U 3
 Police Teargas Students U 3
 120 Students Reported Arrested U 4
 4 Hurt 'Seriously' U 4
 Newsmen Detained, Released U 4
 Almost 500,000 Workers Join National Slowdown U 5
 White Elections Protested U 5
 'Massive Support' for Boycott U 6
 Buses Stoned in Durban U 6
 Cape Town Response 'Patchy' U 6
 Vlok Assures Voter Safety at Polling Stations U 7
 Police Aware of Election Disruption Plans U 7
 Commentary Urges Voters To Give Clear Mandate U 8
 Desmond Tutu Comments on 'Undemocratic' Election U 8
 Sympathetic to Trade Unions U 9
 Land Mine Kills 1, Injures 10 in Messina U 9
 Two Blasts Reported at Johannesburg Civic Center U 9
 Minor Damage Reported U 9
 Police Suspect Limpet Mines U 10
 Grenade Explodes on Cape Railroad Track U 10

Information Bureau Issues 4 May Unrest Report	U 10
Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems	U 10

SWAZILAND

Official Says Camps for Mozambicans 'Crowded' [THE SWAZI OBSERVER 2 May].....	U 11
---	------

ZAMBIA

Kaunda on Break With IMF, UK Grant Withdrawal	U 12
---	------

ZIMBABWE

Tanzania's Nyerere, Mugabe Hold Discussions	U 12
---	------

Saddam Husayn Calls Cancel Mubarak-Husayn Summit *JN050745 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0653 GMT 5 May 87*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 May (WAM) — The newspaper *Al-Ittihad* has said the summit between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Jordan's King Husayn, which was slated to be held on 2 May, was cancelled due to two telephone calls made by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to both Husayn and Mubarak a day before their scheduled meeting. During these calls, President Saddam Husayn asked them to postpone their meeting, which was expected to produce a unified and stringent stand toward the PLO following the change in its position toward Egypt and its abrogation of the Amman accord.

In today's edition, the newspaper quoted a diplomatic source in Beirut as saying the Iraqi president is working to restore the PLO's relations with both Amman and Cairo to what they were before the 20 April PNC session in Algiers.

PLO Spokesman on Possibility of New Arab Summit *JN011935 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1815 GMT 1 May 87*

[Text] Official PLO Spokesman Brother Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman has said the success of the PNC will help get a new Arab summit convened. In a statement published in Tunis today, Brother Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman noted that he hopes the Arab summit will be held before the end of the year. He explained that the time for containing and dominating the PLO and its independent decisionmaking was past, and that a new era has begun based on friendly, independent dealings with the PLO and non-interference in its internal affairs.

Brother Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman pointed out that the conspiracy against the Palestinian presence in Lebanon is great and is designed to disperse 500,000 Palestinians. He declared that the PLO will do its best to protect this presence.

Saudis Contain 'Crisis' in Morocco-PLO Relations *LD041225 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1135 GMT 4 May 87*

[Text] Baghdad, 4 May (TAP) — It was learned from authorized Palestinian sources in Baghdad today that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has succeeded in containing the new political crisis between the PLO and Morocco.

These sources told the *Gulf News Agency* correspondent in Baghdad that these Saudi efforts were enough to check the deterioration in the ties between the PLO and Morocco, which followed Rabat's announcement of its decision to boycott the PLO.

The sources pointed out that the PLO office in Rabat was functioning normally.

Late last month, King Hassan II announced the end of all dealings between him and the PLO. He also banned Moroccan officials from attending any conferences with PLO representatives present, as the PLO had allowed a Polisario representative

to address the recent PNC session in Algiers.

The sources denied reports of an impending visit to Morocco by a senior Palestinian official to discuss the settlement of the crisis. They said Saudi Arabia is still working on this issue, which gives rise to optimism about the restoration of normal relations between the two parties.

Al-Qadhdhafi Reopens PLO Office in Tripoli *JN050705 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0540 GMT 5 May 87*

[Text] Tripoli, 4 May (WAKH) — A responsible Palestinian source has said that Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi has decided to reopen the PLO office in Tripoli.

This came after a meeting in Tripoli today between Libyan leader Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi and Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces.

The source added that Col al-Qadhdhafi has reaffirmed his support for the Palestinian people's struggle under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative. The source indicated that the session was used to review the results of the recent PNC session in Algiers, the status of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, and their struggle against the tyranny and repression of the Zionist occupation. The source added that they also discussed the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, current Arab and Palestinian affairs, and the dangers facing the Palestinian question on the international level.

Syria Detains Palestinians; Others Refused Entry *JN050932 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0840 GMT 5 May 87*

[Text] Dubayy, 5 May (WAKH) — Press reports here today said Syrian officials have banned a number of Palestinians who participated in the 18th PNC session in Algiers from entering Syrian territory.

The newspaper *Al-Bayan* quoted well-informed Palestinian sources as saying that Syrian officials detained four members of the PFLP, the DFLP, and the Palestinian Communist Party. Those detained are: Abu Nidal al-Mussalami, member of the PFLP Political Bureau; Qays al-Samurra'i, member of the PFLP Political Bureau; and 'Abd al-Rahman 'Awadallah and Muhammad Abu Sham'ah, two members of the [Palestinian] Communist Party Political Bureau.

Habash Reaffirms Ties With Jordan, Egypt Role *JN041436 Doha QNA in Arabic 1346 GMT 4 May 87*

[Text] Paris, 4 May (QNA) — PFLP Secretary General Dr George Habash has stressed that the PNC must stand by the distinguished relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples, as the roots and reasons of this bond come from a common past and future.

In a statement to be published in Paris on Wednesday by the

newspaper *Kull al-'Arab*, the Palestinian official warned that there will be no great or comprehensive Arab awakening without Egypt. This, he said, is based on ancient and recent history and is clearly reflected in the Palestinian question. Habaah noted the agreement between the Zionist Likud and Labor Parties to refuse to recognize the PLO, establish a Palestinian state, withdraw from Arab lands occupied in 1967, and pull out of Jerusalem. He added: We are not counting on any peripheral differences between these two parties. He explained that the truth behind these differences emerges when there is a real test.

Fatah Dissident 'Attallah To Visit Egypt

JN031339 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1300 GMT 3 May 87

[Text] In Amman, a spokesman for Colonel 'Attallah 'Attallah, also known as Abu al-Za'im, leader of a dissident movement in Fatah, has announced that Abu al-Za'im will go to Cairo very soon at the official invitation of the Egyptian Government. If the

trip takes place, it will be Abu al-Za'im's first visit to Cairo since the establishment of his organization, which he called the Corrective Movement, in April 1986, after which he was expelled from the PLO.

PLO Official Denies Threats Against Italy

JN021542 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1450 GMT 2 May 87

[Text] Tunis, 2 May (WAKH) — In a report from Rome, the *Palestine Press Agency* has said an unidentified person in the Italian city of Milan has contacted the Italian news agency ANSA, claiming to speak on behalf of the PLO and making threats against Italy. The news agency added that Walid Ghazal, deputy director of the PLO office in Rome, commented on these threats to ANSA. He said such crazy threats conflict with PLO traditions and policy and deserve a response from the PLO. He added: Following the great success achieved recently by the Palestinian question through the 18th PNC session in Algiers, we do not rule out the possibility that our enemies will try to distort the PLO's image through various means.

BAHRAIN

Foreign Minister Leaves for Washington

JN050813 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] Manama, 5 May (WAKH) — Bahraini Foreign Affairs Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah left Manama for Washington early this morning. He will participate in the meetings of the 7-member Arab League Committee charged with following up developments in the Iraq-Iran war and with urging the permanent members of the UN Security Council to work toward ending this conflict and establishing a just and comprehensive peace in accordance with UN resolutions.

The committee heading for the United States includes Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini foreign affairs minister; Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, YAR deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister; and representatives of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Jordan.

The group is scheduled to meet with U.S. Vice President George Bush and Secretary of State George Shultz in Washington on 7 May.

Representatives from the 7-member committee held official meetings with French and Soviet representatives last month. Other officials from the committee will be getting in touch with the PRC and British Governments in the next few days.

KUWAIT

Minister Denies Iran Seized Fishing Boats

LD041449 Kuwait KUNA in English 1330 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Kuwait, May 4 (KUNA) — Information Minister Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad Monday categorically denied that Iran has seized fishing boats owned by Kuwaiti nationals in Kuwaiti territorial waters off Bubiyan Bridge.

Speaking to reporters during his weekly diwaniyah [audience], Shaykh Nasir noted that he telephoned Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah who denied the report which has been circulated by one of the local papers.

The information minister hailed the efficiency of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces whom he described as the "watchful eye" on security and safety of the country under the leadership of H.H. the amir and H.H. the crown prince and premier who exert all efforts to preserve Kuwait's independence.

On some papers criticism of the television programs during the month of Ramadan, particularly in Channel One, the minister said "we request assistance from the critics to tell us how to improve these programs." He nonetheless admitted that Channel One is weak.

On Channel Two, Shaykh Nasir said it was agreed with producing companies in the U.S., Europe and Australia to provide the television with foreign serials and latest programs to be screened

simultaneously with the producing countries.

He pointed out that Kuwait television programs compared to programs in the region is always superior.

Commenting on preparations for the first Gulf theatre festival, which Kuwait decided to host next October, the minister announced the possibility of postponing the festival noting that Kuwait did not receive yet approvals from member countries on the invitation with the exception of Bahrain.

Paper Views Iranian Attempt at 'Sedition'

JN041809 Kuwait AL-RAY AL-'AMM in Arabic

3 May 87 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "We Will Always Be the Stronger"]

[Text] Kuwait has been a solid and united family throughout history. The reasons for this are clear; they are neither secret nor puzzling. In fact, they rest on the everlasting coexistence and solid cohesion among the members of this family.

Our fathers reminisce about the past, and our grandfathers tell us tales of the Kuwaiti era, when there were no differences among the members of the one big family and no discrimination among Kuwaiti citizens.

We do not know the meaning of sectarianism or racism. We have no problems, differences, or disputes. If there are disputes, they are immediately settled in a single meeting. If there are differences, they are settled after reproaches and embraces. Though times have changed, the true and noble Kuwaiti people have remained loyal to the fathers' mission and their grandfathers' heritage, opening no doors to disputes and never permitting any talk of sectarianism.

However, after what happened in Iran and after its rulers took power, things began to change in throughout the Islamic world. The spark of sedition was triggered by Iran and the signs of sectarianism began to appear, manipulated and nourished by Iranian hands.

Those currently in power in Iran want to reopen the wounds that have been healed by the Muslims with their wisdom and maturity. They try to widen the gap that was bridged some 1,400 years ago. Iran involved its people in a war that benefits no Muslim. It began fighting battles designed solely to perpetuate the destruction and bloodshed in a war that serves the interests of East and West equally. It is carrying out an act of aggression that has the Muslim Iranian people as its first victims, followed by the Islamic world. This is above and beyond the Arab nation, which is going through one of the most critical stages in its history thanks to its decisive conflict with its Zionist enemy. This enemy will not be satisfied with Palestine alone, for its Torah speaks of a so-called kingdom with extensive boundaries stretching deep inside the Arab and Muslim homeland. Why is Tehran pushing its people toward the crematorium? It is forcibly rounding up people of all ages and is putting them in camps. It is storming homes in an unprecedented manner to seize children and old men to offer them up as human sacrifices on the altar of fire and death. It is

in the name of religion that Iran continues this war, a war that is actually opposed to the interest of all Muslims.

Every society has its black sheep, just as there is an exception to every rule. A group of ignorant people blinded by sectarianism and its evils have attacked us, a stray group whose members have no sense of loyalty toward the country that raised and cared for them. Kuwait, the one family, never discriminated between its citizens for junior positions or senior ones: ambassadors, ministers, and ranking officers.

Iran sought to encourage sedition, but found there was no place for it in Kuwait, as this good country lacks the soil that would nourish the seeds of rancor.

Kuwait is strong thanks to its unity and the cohesion among its sons. Kuwait is certain of both its present and future, as maturity and wisdom prevail. It makes its own decisions, and knows what it wants and how to obtain it thanks to its people's faith and their unshakable determination, its status in the Arab region and the world at large, and its participation in all international bodies, from the United Nations to the economic assistance funds. The entire world knows what Kuwait represents. They praise its steps and its achievements. The fifth Islamic summit hosted by Kuwait was the best evidence of its status and standing.

Kuwait is not the country Iran wants it to be. It is not an easy morsel for Tehran, which has subjugated its people and exterminated thousands of them in a losing war.

France, USSR Ready To Lease Oil Tankers

JN041348 Kuwait AL-RAY AL-'AMM in Arabic
3 May 87 p 1

[Text] *Al-Ray al-'Amm* has learned that France has expressed its readiness to lease oil tankers to Kuwait as part of Kuwait's policy of transporting its oil on foreign tankers. This follows several attacks on Kuwaiti tankers in the Gulf.

France's offer comes after Kuwait's agreement with the USSR on a similar measure.

'Arafat Holds Meeting With Foreign Minister

LD041305 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1238 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Kuwait, 4 May (KUNA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwait's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, called on PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at his residence in Dasman Palace before noon today.

The meeting was also attended by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin; 'Abdullah Sa'ud al-'Abd al-Razzaq, director of the minister's office; Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to 'Arafat; and 'Awni Battash, head of the PLO office in Kuwait.

A reliable source told KUNA that the discussions covered the results of the recent 18th PNC session in Algeria, as well as current Arab developments, ongoing efforts to hold an Arab

summit, and preparations for an international Middle East peace conference.

Discusses Proposed Summit

LD041629 Kuwait KUNA in English 1507 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Kuwait, May 4 (KUNA) — Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Yasir 'Arafat said Monday that the proposed international peace conference on the Middle East must realize a just solution for the Palestinian people to attain their legitimate rights.

Speaking in a press conference on the occasion of his visit to Kuwait, within the framework of a tour of a number of (Arab) countries, 'Arafat said chances for holding the international peace conference with the attendance of all concerned countries, including the PLO as equal participant this year is better than prior to the convening of the Palestine National Council.

'Arafat called for strengthening Arab and Palestinian efforts to convene the international conference and prepare to fight a political battle in the conference noting that conspiracies are being hatched against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples to obstruct unity of Palestinian groups represented in the PNC recent resolution in Algiers.

The PLO leader expressed optimism in the convening of the long delayed Arab summit this year with the attendance of all parties despite reported political disputes between some Arab countries pointing out to Algerian, Libyan and Soviet efforts to restore Palestinian-Syria relations.

On abrogation of the Amman agreement and the future of Palestinian-Jordanian relations, he said 15 months after conclusion of the agreement had failed to bring any positive sign and hence abrogation of the agreement was natural noting that the PNC and its executive leadership have the right to take any political resolutions in respect of future Palestinian-Jordanian relations.

Addresses Mass Rally

JN041902 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1800 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has described the current circumstances on both the Palestinian and Arab levels as the most difficult and critical the PLO has ever seen. He added that today's conditions resemble those that prevailed before the 1982 Zionist invasion of Lebanon and during the siege of Palestinian resistance forces in Beirut.

Addressing a rally held by Kuwait's Palestinian community last night, Abu 'Ammar warned of ongoing attempts to remove the Palestinian factor from the Middle East conflict. He reaffirmed the PLO's commitment to the road of armed struggle against the Zionist enemy to regain the Palestinian people's national rights, including those of repatriation, self-determination, the establishment of their own independent state on their national soil with Jerusalem as its capital, and the protection of the Palestinian

people in Lebanon. He also pointed to the 18th PNC session in Algiers, which he said resulted in Palestinian national unity, the effects of which will soon be felt in both the Palestinian and Arab arenas. He highlighted the PLO's position toward the international conference on the Middle East, as well as the need for the PLO to participate in it on an equal footing with the parties concerned and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. This will permit a just solution to be reached guaranteeing Palestinian rights. He added that recent Arab and nonaligned summits, as well as the Islamic summit, stressed the PLO's role in any political activity concerning the regional crisis.

Turning to the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, Abu 'Ammar said they are still under siege, although food is being sent in. He cited attempts to strip residents of the camps of their weapons, which protect their lives and security.

Ends 2-Day Visit, Departs

LD042136 Kuwait KUNA in English 2019 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Kuwait, May 4 (KUNA) — PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left here tonight at conclusion of a two-day visit during which he conferred with H.H. the amir, H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad.

He briefed them on outcome of the 18th session of the Palestine National Council that was held in Algeria late April in addition to latest developments in Palestinian, Arab and international arenas.

'Arafat was seen off at the airport by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud al-'Usymi and director of the PLO office here 'Awni Battash.

PDRY

Al-'Attas Says Talks Held With YAR 'Successful'

EA020220 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1400 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, has praised the effective efforts of the working class and its trade union movement in various sectors of labor and production in implementing the country's economic and social development plan. In an interview published by *Sawt al-Umma* yesterday, he explained that our country's laborers will celebrate this May Day while they are busy working.

In addition, Al-'Attas mentioned the general amnesty decree, stressing that large numbers of people have returned to the homeland after the conspiracy of 13 January. However, there are individuals and forces that do not want our misguided brothers to benefit from this decree. By publishing lies and distortions about their future, work, and security, they are trying to prevent their return. He also noted that the talks held with our brothers in the northern part of the homeland have been successful, and he praised the positive part played here by the State of Kuwait.

The brother chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium expressed his great satisfaction with our country's work to achieve PLO unity. He emphasized that the restoration of this unity would be one factor in the return of Arab unity.

He went on to praise our country's relations with the Soviet Union, which are developing constantly and growing stronger. One of the fruits of these ties was the recent discovery of oil in our country. He explained that productive wells are now being drilled and the size of our oil reserves is being assessed, stressing that this resource will be used to develop a comprehensive economic base for our country.

QATAR

'Arafat Arrives; To Meet Shaykh Khalifah

JN050601 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0523 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] Doha, 4 May (WAKH) — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Doha last night on a 2-day visit to Qatar as part of his tour of a number of Arab states.

In a statement to Doha QNA, Yasir 'Arafat expressed his pleasure at visiting Qatar. He noted that his stay will include a meeting with His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Ahmad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, to brief him on the latest developments affecting the Palestinian question. This is all the more timely after the success of the PNC meetings designed to enhance Palestinian unity.

'Arafat is accompanied by Salim al-Za'nun, deputy PNC speaker and Fatah Central Committee member, and 'Imad Shakkur, adviser to the PLO Executive Committee chairman.

Received by Shaykh Khalifah

JN050959 Doha QNA in Arabic 0925 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] Doha, 5 May (QNA) — His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat this morning.

Khalid ibn 'Abdallah al-'Atiyyah, public works minister and acting municipal affairs minister, attended the talks for Qatar. The Palestinians were represented by Salim al-Za'nun, deputy PNC speaker and Fatah Central Committee member; 'Imad Shakkur, adviser to the PLO Executive Committee chairman; and Yasin al-Sharif, director of the PLO office in Doha.

The discussions dealt with developments in the Palestinian question, the latest Palestinian, Arab, and international events in light of the 18th PNC session, and efforts to achieve Arab solidarity.

Yasir 'Arafat expressed his thanks to his highness the amir of Qatar for Qatar's continuing support for the Palestinian cause on various levels and in various areas.

SAUDI ARABIA

King Fahd's Tour 'Crowned With Success'

LD042130 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2006 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Riyadh, 4 May (SPA) — King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, is due to arrive at King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh at 2130 tomorrow from Morocco. This follows his successful and historic tour of more than one Arab and European capital. His trip was crowned with success in every stage and in its every step to achieve more positive results in support of the Arab and Islamic nations, unification of Arab ranks, and the rallying of this nation around its supreme objectives. May God preserve and back the custodian of the two holy mosques.

UAE

Deputy Prime Minister Invited To Visit PRC

JN041909 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 4 May (WAKH) — UAE Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad has received a written message from Yao Yilin, vice premier of the PRC State Council. The note contains an invitation to visit the PRC. Hu Changlin, the Chinese ambassador to the UAE, delivered the message during a meeting here this evening with Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad.

During the session, bilateral relations and recent developments in the Middle East were discussed. A number of other issues of common interest were examined as well.

Sidqi Goes to Amman With Message for King Husayn
NC050910 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
 0800 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] Egypt's delegation led by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi left Cairo for Jordan this morning to take part in the meeting of the Egyptian-Jordanian Higher Committee, due to begin in the Jordanian capital today.

In a statement before his departure, Dr Sidqi stated that the meetings will be dedicated to following up recommendations agreed upon by the committee's earlier sessions regarding the scope for various forms of cooperation between Egypt and Jordan. He added that the committee will also discuss problems and obstacles which may impede bilateral cooperation.

Dr Sidqi stated he is carrying a greetings message from President Husni Mubarak to His Majesty King Husayn. He added that contacts between President Mubarak and King Husayn are continuing.

Dr Sidqi concluded by saying that developments in the Middle East and the question of an international peace conference will also be discussed.

IMF Agreement Reportedly Takes Effect Mid-May
NC020957 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 2 May 87

[Text] Cairo, 2 May (MENA) — The newspaper *Akhbar Al-Yawm* reports today that negotiations between Egypt and an IMF delegation have almost been concluded, and that an agreement between the two parties on rescheduling Egypt's debts is expected to go into effect by mid-May.

The paper mentions that Egypt has authored a statement detailing the debts owed to its creditor countries as a step preparing the way for negotiations, which will then be held with each individual country. These discussions will revolve around the individual circumstances of each case and the grace periods determined by the IMF.

The paper also reports that very important economic resolutions will be adopted in the next few days. The resolutions deal with the banking sector and will permit banks that operate in Egypt to buy and sell foreign currencies at flexible rates approaching those available on the free market.

A resolution has also been prepared which provides for increasing bank interest rates, both for deposits and loans, by approximately 2 percent.

The newspaper *Al-Ahram* reports that the IMF has agreed in principle to a draft agreement under which Egypt would receive an IMF loan totalling between \$250-300 million. This agreement comes in light of the economic reform program proposed by the Egyptian Government.

The paper notes further that a meeting between Egypt and its creditors will be held in Paris during the last week of May to

discuss debt rescheduling and the granting of new facilities to Egypt.

The paper cites Central Bank Governor Dr Salah Hamid as saying that the IMF has approved the letter of intent submitted by Egypt. He added that he received a telephone call from Washington yesterday informing him of the IMF's approval of Egypt's economic reform plan.

Dr Salah Hamid stated that the IMF Board of Governors will meet on 18 May to endorse the final approval.

The paper adds that the arrangements for the Egyptian loans the IMF has already approved, which amount to \$500 million, have been completed. These loans are for projects in the fields of energy, agriculture, industry, and export development.

Akhbar al-Yawm also states that Egypt is currently considering a new U.S. plan for settling Egypt's military debts. The new plan is more flexible than previous ones and proposes that a 7-percent interest rate be approved.

Agreement 'Important Step'

JN041826 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 3 May 87 p 1

[Article by Editor in Chief Sa'id Sunbul: "The Meaning of This Agreement"]

[Text] When we reach an agreement with the IMF we prove to the world and to our trade partners that we are on the road of sound economic reform and that we are capable of fulfilling our commitments and overcoming the economic crisis now facing us.

The agreement with the IMF is a new and important step toward the economic reform begun by Egypt in the past 5 years.

Foremost among the problems Egypt formerly faced and presently faces is the deficit in the general budget caused by the constant increase in spending and the inability to increase our resources at the same rate.

The deficit has contributed to the increase in the rate of inflation and has compelled the government to borrow from abroad to finance development projects.

In the past 5 years the government has carried out a series of economic reforms in an attempt to redress the various economic structures and reduce the general budget deficit by reducing expenditures and developing and increasing resources.

Last year in particular was one of the worst for Egypt. There was a sharp and unusual fall in revenue as a result of circumstances outside Egypt's control. Foremost among these circumstances were plummeting oil prices, which dropped from \$30 to about \$8 a barrel. There was also a decline in revenue from tourism and a drop in remittances from Egyptians working abroad.

At the same time Egypt's burdens greatly increased as payment of debts and interest on debts became due. These payments and interest were paid for with hard currency. Egypt turned to the

lender countries and asked for a rescheduling of its debts so it could overcome its difficulty. The lender countries did not object to rescheduling debts through the IMF.

The question is: Why the IMF? Some people tried to distort the agreement with the IMF. Indeed, they went too far when they tried to depict the IMF agreement as an agreement with a loan fund. Such a comparison clearly distorts the facts and is misleading. The lender countries have asked Egypt to agree with the IMF, since this would be testimony to the soundness of Egypt's economy and of Egypt's ability to fulfill its commitments. Such testimony will enable lender governments to persuade their parliaments to reschedule Egypt's debts now currently due. Thus, the IMF agreement is favorable for Egypt and does not mean the imposition of a trusteeship on Egypt.

Egypt is not the first country and will not be the last to conclude an agreement with the IMF. During the administrations of the two late presidents, 'Abd al-Nasir and Al-Sadat, Egypt concluded agreements with the IMF to obtain loans and reschedule debts. No one at the time claimed that the foreign countries were imposing their trusteeship on us through the IMF, as some commentators try to claim these days.

It is no secret that the IMF makes specific proposals, and those who want to reach agreement with the IMF have to accept such proposals.

All the IMF proposals aim at ending deficits, which cause inflation and the poor economic situation. It is no secret that Egypt has rejected many IMF proposals, such as those seeking to cut back or freeze wages or dispense with surplus manpower, because such proposals are incompatible with the state's general policy.

However, there are other proposals that aim to correct economic policy, and Egypt has agreed to these proposals. Egypt itself began to pursue such a course in the past 5 years out of its belief that the postponement of the economic problem would not solve it, for the problem is solved by confronting it.

The IMF agreement is one of the steps toward reform and toward confronting the problem.

Mustafa: Only Government Debts Rescheduled

NC041340 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Cairo, 4 May (MENA) — Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, stressed today that only government debts which the Egyptian Government has incurred will be rescheduled with creditor states. He added that negotiations on this issue will be held with the government of each country separately.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, the minister added that talks between Egypt and these countries' governments will cover interest rates and the grace and repayment periods. He noted that the creditor countries' governments, particularly the French, German, Italian, U.S., Netherlands, Japanese, and Spanish Governments, now have much sympathy for Egypt's positions.

Meanwhile, Egypt has initiated the procedures for forming the Egyptian delegation that will negotiate with the creditor countries' governments. The announcement of this act is expected within the next few days.

It will be recalled that the IMF Board of Governors has agreed in principle to grant Egypt a letter of intent allowing it to reschedule its debts with the creditor countries. This is considered a letter of guarantee from the IMF that the Egyptian economy is capable of fulfilling its international commitments.

AL-WAFD: 'Crisis' in Ties With U.S. About To End

PM031715 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 27 Apr 87 p 1

[Unattributed Report: "Senior U.S. Official Visiting Cairo Shortly To Resolve Crisis in Relations Between the Two Countries"]

[Text] *Al-Wafd* has learned from informed sources that the current crisis in Egyptian-U.S. relations is about to end. The U.S. Administration has shown readiness to grant Egypt \$2.1 billion in military and economic aid for 1987. It has also expressed readiness to reconsider the decision suspending financial aid to Egypt totaling \$170 million. An assistant secretary of state is expected to visit Cairo in the near future to hold talks with Egyptian officials on the possibility of developing relations between the two countries during the coming period. *Al-Wafd* has also learned that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has advised the U.S. Administration to moderate its rigid position toward Egypt in order to confront the Egyptian-Arab rapprochement which threatens Israeli and U.S. interests in the region.

The U.S. Administration is seeking to persuade President Husni Mubarak to visit the United States within the next 3 months to hold talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan on all pending problems between the two countries. It is known that President Mubarak previously postponed indefinitely his visit to Washington, scheduled for February 1986, and recently announced that he does not wish to visit Washington at present in order to be free to deal with domestic problems.

Political Parties React to PLO Office Closing

JN031927 Kuwait AL-RAY AL-AMM in Arabic 30 Apr 87 p 21

[Excerpts] Cairo — The reactions of Egyptian political parties to Egypt's decision closing all PLO offices in Cairo have been varied. [passage omitted]

Dr Wahid Ra'fat, deputy leader of the New Wafd Party, has said: It is unacceptable for anyone to interfere in our policy, whether internal or external. Egypt is the only party that has offered unlimited support for the Palestinian cause. Dr Wahid Ra'fat added that, if the situation continues as it is, the Palestine question will not be solved, especially since the Jews are continuing to Judaize the land of Palestine. Wahid Ra'fat expressed his great admiration for the PLO leadership. By this he meant Yasir

'Arafat, whom he described as exerting efforts while enduring the heavy pressures on him.

Mustafa Kamil Murad, leader of the Liberal Socialist Party, said: This decision came without consideration or deliberateness and is a hasty decision for several reasons. This is especially the case because the Palestine question is a pan-Arab issue in the first place, and because, as Egypt is a pioneer of the Arab world, the Palestine question is an Egyptian one. He added it was necessary for Egyptian leaders to meet with Palestinian organizations, particularly the PLO, to discuss the decisions relating to Egyptian-Palestinian relations without resorting to this measure, which he described as serious. Mustafa Murad said this decision will result in negative effects on the Palestine question in particular and on the Arab governments in general. Mustafa Kamil Murad added that Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat told the Egyptian delegation and correspondents of Egyptian newspapers that the Palestine question will not be solved without Egypt and that there will be neither war nor peace without Egypt.

Farid 'Abd al-Karim, one of the Arab Nasirite Socialist Party's founders, expressed regret over the decision closing the PLO offices. He said: I hope that the days of Ramadan will be used as the occasion to close the Arab ranks.

The clubs of the university teaching staff members will hold an urgent meeting in this regard. A senior official in the Cairo club said: Egypt has the right to defend its dignity, interests, and issues, yet we must never abandon our support for the Palestine question. Moreover, decisions must not be made on the belief that there is only one Palestinian organization or [be directed] toward only one attitude of the Palestinian factions, he added.

The councils of the lawyers and doctors associations, as well as the Egyptian workers general federation, have also called for an urgent meeting in this regard. Statements will be issued to define the stand of these bodies on this issue although the prevailing attitude, according to a statement by an official in the Egyptian workers general federation, will be to appeal to the Egyptian leadership to heal the rift with the PLO and for all differences to be discussed so the appropriate view of them is adopted. [passage omitted]

Thirteen senior Palestinian officials left Cairo yesterday. Some of them declined to comment on the Egyptian decision. [passage omitted]

NPUGP Regrets Decision

JN031804 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 29 Apr 87 p 1

[Unattributed article: "The National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party: The Decision To Close the PLO Office Is Directed Against the Unity of the Palestinian Revolution"]

[Text] Commenting on the Egyptian Government's decision against the PLO, an official spokesman for the General Secretariat [of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party -- NPUGP] has stated the following:

We extremely regret that the government has made an angry, hasty decision to close the PLO offices in Egypt. It seems this decision was reached before the PNC recently convened in Algiers, where unity was achieved among the Palestinian factions, unity we had always desired for the sake of supporting and consolidating the just Palestinian cause. Apart from achieving this unity, the PNC did not adopt a decision against Egypt. Thus, why was the government angry and hasty unless it considers the Palestinian factions' unity an obstacle to its peddling of a separate settlement of the Palestine question modeled after the Camp David accords?

Therefore, under these circumstances it may not be strange that the PLO now enjoys the hostility of the three Arab governments in Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. Although the reasons for such hostility are different, their stand is the same; that is, they attempt to either control, liquidate, or exclude the PLO.

We call on everyone to work and warn everyone that this new campaign against the PLO is a campaign against the Palestinian people and also against all pan-Arab causes.

AL-AKHBAR on Lesson in Relations With PLO

JN041751 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 3 May 87 p 5

[Editorial: "A Leaf That Is Due To Be Turned Over"]

[Text] We believe it is time to turn the leaf of the only resolution on which the Palestinian leaders managed to agree amid vast, deep differences that have fragmented their ranks and dissipated their efforts. This resolution concerns Egypt's relations with the PLO. It no longer befits us to show any more interest or make any more comments [on this matter]. Our time is too precious to be wasted in discussing the behavior of leaders and groups who have made their people's pain and misery a profitable, continuing business. We have wasted enough of the souls, money, and long years on a cause whose proponents as well as those who lead the struggle for it endeavor to keep it [the PLO's grievance] unsolved as long as possible for their own personal interests and goals.

Let suffice what has been lost and what has affected us as a result of a generosity and chivalry that have only brought us rancor and ingratitude. We must now devote all our resources and efforts to regaining what we lost in wars with which we had nothing to do. Our country and people are in need of every effort so that we will once again make our nation the richest and most developed of the region's countries. We will be content with wishing success and giving guidance to those who demanded that they stay away from us. Their cause is first and foremost the cause of their people and they alone must struggle for it because nobody will fight for them and no one will sacrifice himself to defend them as long as their leaders are dominated by such whims and interests.

Egypt was destined to take the bread from its citizens to give it to Arab brothers who stabbed Egypt from time to time. Those whose land we helped liberate and break away from the shackles of its colonization have now chosen as their main goal to attack Egypt. Those for whom we endangered our country's security and independence now pose a danger to our security.

Given that a rational person is one who draws lessons from his own experience, it is imperative that what recently happened in Algiers be the last lesson we must not forget. We must try not to poke our fingers in where we have repeatedly been bitten. Let us turn over a new leaf and devote our efforts, first and foremost, to our own people.

AL-AHRAM Calls Stand on PLO 'Objective Approach'
JN031948 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 1 May 87 p 7

[Editorial: "An Objective Pause, Pause, and the Pulse of a People"]

[Text] Egypt's decision to close the PLO offices in response to transgressions at the PNC meetings in Algiers echoed the sentiments of the ordinary Egyptian who was surprised, embittered, and pained by the PNC resolutions and statements signifying ingratitude and a denial of the sacrifices made by the Egyptian people for the Palestinian cause from 1948 until the present.

The decision, which was met with wide popular satisfaction, was not an expression of a desire to shirk the responsibility of supporting the Palestinian cause, which has cost Egypt much, but was an expression of the desire to adopt an objective approach to the PLO and some of its leaders. The decisions of these leaders in Algiers were not only an insult to the Egyptian people and their sacrifices, but also an insult to the Palestinian people and their struggle. Those who have agreed to antagonize the Syrian regime, which inflicted sufferings on the Palestinians from Tall al-Za'tar to the total siege of the refugee camps in Lebanon, cannot be trusted to shoulder the responsibility of the Palestinian struggle.

The Egyptian people's shock at the behavior of some of the irresponsible leaders considered part of the PLO stems from the correct realization that some of these leaders apparently do not desire a solution to the Palestinian question or to end the sufferings of the Palestinian people who have lived under the occupational yoke in the West Bank and Gaza Strip since 1967. Otherwise, how does one explain their [PLO's] adoption of resolutions that are for local consumption and cannot yield any positive results. Such resolutions can only strengthen the argument of Israeli hardliners who are looking for a way to avoid sitting down at the negotiating table under the umbrella of the international peace conference.

When Egypt fought in defense of the Palestinian people's rights it did not do so because it liked war; it instead fought to assist the Palestinian people in regaining their rights and to bring about a just and lasting regional peace out of Egypt's belief that regional security and stability can be achieved only by safeguarding all the area's peoples' legitimate rights, especially those of the Palestinian people.

Egypt has always respected the will of all peoples. It never sought to address any people behind their leaders' backs, and does not allow anyone to address the Egyptian people behind the backs of their national and historic leaders.

Certainly those who wanted to come between the Egyptian people and their government have not only strayed but have also demonstrated that they truly misunderstand the Egyptian people, who are rallying around their national leadership as never before. The Egyptian people are fully convinced that the current of peace is the strongest and the most durable. No one has granted peace to Egypt as a gift; Egypt has wrested its land and regained its national soil thanks to the sacrifices of its martyrs and the courage of its fighters.

In conclusion, we emphasize that such an objective approach to the PLO and some of its symbols, who are agents of the Arab rejectionist regimes, does not impinge upon Egypt's firm policy based on its unshakable Arab affiliation and its consistent support for the Palestinian cause, which is not affected or undermined by such transgressions and trivialities.

Commentary Claims PLO 'Sold Out' Egypt for Funds
*NC031434 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
 1240 GMT 3 May 87*

[Commentary by Bahid al-Din Shu'ayb: "PLO Sells Out Egypt in Return for Its Funds in Damascus"]

[Excerpts] Egypt's decision to close PLO offices and institutions is still reverberating throughout the world. Noting every statement made so far and every stand taken on Palestinian-Egyptian relations, we mark with interest the statements made by leaders of the Palestinian factions. While some responsible Palestinian leaders have courageously risen above trivialities, most of them have opened fire on Egypt out of resentment and in an attempt to undermine its status. This resentment has even led them to assert that without the PLO Egypt would have not have been able to rejoin the ICO. As if Egypt's Islamic role needs a recommendation! [passage omitted]

It is no secret that prior to the PNC meeting President Mubarak asked an Egyptian close to Yasir 'Arafat to convey to 'Arafat an oral message warning of the dangers a continued anti-Egypt campaign poses to Egyptian-Palestinian relations. In his message to 'Arafat, President Mubarak said that, regrettably, he would be compelled to comment on these Palestinian transgressions in his May Day address. If all this is known and understood by all, why is a story circulating that Egypt fabricated all these excuses to sever relations with the PLO in implementing a U.S.-Israeli-Jordanian plan to liquidate the Palestinian cause?

Do the PLO leaders who repeat this barrage of lies against Egypt believe the world is devoid of wise men who know all the facts? The PLO leaders are repeating these lies in the belief that they can thus formulate new relations with other regimes or slip back into Damascus to free PLO funds frozen by the PNSF under the chairmanship of Khalid al-Fahum, the obedient man of Damascus. We tell the genius leaders of the PLO who have sold out Egypt's sacrifices that they are chasing a mirage, that the Syrian regime will not allow \$1 of PLO funds out of Syrian banks, and that the Syrian regime will accept nothing short of the liquidation of the PLO leaders it has totally rejected.

The suppression of the Palestinian people in Lebanon would not stop even if all the Palestinian leaders stood on the pulpit of Ummayyad Mosque and cursed the Egyptian Government. The PLO leaders have sold out Egypt to the Syrian regime for 30 pieces of silver. The story of Judas, who sold out Jesus Christ, remains a lesson unheeded.

Soviet Ambassador Discusses Meeting With Mubarak
NC041136 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Cairo, 4 May (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak received Soviet Ambassador Gennadiy Kirillovich Zhuravlev at the presidency headquarters in Heliopolis this morning.

Following the meeting, the Soviet ambassador stated that he and the president discussed bilateral relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union. He added that the president dealt with everything that can be done this year toward bolstering relations between the two countries.

Ambassador Zhuravlev pointed out that President Mubarak stressed the importance of current political contacts between the two countries.

The Soviet ambassador stated that the agreement signed during the recent economic, trade, and financial talks in Moscow had made a considerable contribution to the development of bilateral relations and the atmosphere in which they are conducted.

Zhuravlev noted that preparations are under way for a long-term trade agreement expected to be signed this year. He also noted that the groundwork is in hand for an agreement under which Soviet institutions would participate in implementing industrial projects included in the Second 5-Year Plan in Egypt.

Paper Reports Negotiations on Soviet Arms
JN031834 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic
 3 May 87 p 1

[Text] Cairo — An Egyptian military delegation will leave Cairo for Moscow at the end of this month to hold talks on purchasing \$200 million worth of Soviet arms, including long-range surface-to-surface missiles, tanks, and advanced aircraft.

Moroccan Diplomat Views Meeting With Mubarak
NC041302 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Cairo, 4 May (MENA) — Mohamed at-Tazi, head of the Moroccan Interests Section in Cairo, has described his country's relations with the Arab Republic of Egypt as quite excellent. He stressed that there are no differences in the two countries' views and that their stands on various issues are identical.

In a statement after his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today, At-Tazi said that he had conveyed His Majesty King Hassan's best wishes and greetings. He added that President

Mubarak had analyzed the situation in the Arab homeland. At-Tazi stated he was very pleased to have had this meeting.

He noted that he had explained Morocco's view and its concept of events in the Arab region to President Mubarak.

Asked about reports of an imminent tripartite summit to be attended by Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, the Algerian president, and the Moroccan king in the city of Wajdah on the Moroccan-Algerian border, At-Tazi said that he had read these reports in the press, just like everyone else. He added that Morocco welcomes any meeting that will end the artificial problems in the Arab Maghreb region.

Ibrahim Shukri on Islamic State, Elections
JN281756 Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic 26 Apr 87 pp 16-18

[Interview with Ibrahim Shukri, leader of the opposition in the Egyptian People's Assembly and head of the Socialist Labor Party, by Muhammad Khalafallah; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Khalafallah] Was agreement on choosing the leader of the opposition reached before the parliamentary session began?

[Shukri] The honorable brothers have exempted me from discussing the matter and their desire that I lead the alliance within the People's Assembly was the only proposal made. However, I suggested that all important issues should be the subject of consultations with the other parties inside and outside the People's Assembly.

[Khalafallah] What is your view of the New Wafd Party's leaders' claim that they will lead the opposition in the People's Assembly since they won more seats than the Socialist Labor Party [SLP] won on its own, considering that SLP seats have been won by all the members of the alliance?

[Shukri] All those who nominated themselves on the SLP ticket are SLP members and are not at present members of any other party. They represent the SLP's parliamentary body and constitute the majority of the opposition. They are entitled to lead the opposition in the Assembly. The Interior Ministry notifications to the members were addressed in the SLP's name.

[Khalafallah] What about the Liberal Socialist Party [LSP] and the Muslim Brotherhood?

[Shukri] With regard to the Muslim Brotherhood, they are not a party — they are SLP members. Also, the alliance members from the LSP who were elected on SLP tickets — they are now members of the SLP. As for the LSP members who were elected to independent seats, it is possible for them to have an LSP parliamentary body with a spokesman within the Assembly. They may be joined by independent members who were supported by the SLP during the elections. [passage omitted]

[Khalafallah] Do you think the presence of a strong Islamic current within the People's Assembly encourages the demand for establishing an Islamic state?

[Shukri] The clauses in the Constitution are adequate. The Constitution states that the religion of the state is Islam and that Islamic law is the principal source of legislation. Such provisions are adequate. In my view the term religious state is not compatible with Islam, for Islam combines worship and earthly affairs. The Koranic provisions on earthly affairs far exceed Koranic provisions on worship and spiritual affairs. This dispenses with the idea of a solely religious state, since establishing a solely religious state is incompatible with Islam. In an Islamic society all citizens are equal, be they Muslims or People of the Book.

[Khalafallah] Do you agree with what some people say, namely, that the slogan -- "Islam is the solution" -- is a demand for establishing an Islamic state?

[Shukri] To say the slogan we raised -- "Islam is the Solution" -- means a demand for establishing an Islamic state is to oversimplify matters. There are rules in Islam for various earthly affairs: the economy, sociology, the balancing of the rights of the individual and the rights of the community; equality and equal opportunity; the state's responsibility toward and guarantees for all those who live in the state from birth through old age; the call to work and to build the universe; self-reliance and the citizen's sense of freedom; the accountability of rulers; the sanctification of public property; the sense of responsibility of every official: You are all shepherds and each shepherd is responsible for his flock; the rule that money does not increase by usury except through legal means such as trade, investment,

and the creation of jobs; the right of every citizen to a dignified life and to life's basic needs, including the right to shelter; and the sanctity of family life. Islam has guaranteed all these basic matters.

Therefore, those who refer to Islam only in terms of penalties -- cutting off the thief's hand, stoning adulterers -- or in terms of discriminating between Muslims and non-Muslims are being unfair, for they do not know the truth about Islam.

[Khalafallah] How do we safeguard the homeland and achieve national unity?

[Shukri] I firmly believe in the need to safeguard national unity. When we proclaimed in our platform that the brother Copts have the same rights and responsibilities as we have; we meant exactly that. Thus, there is the SLP's anxiousness that our ticket in Asyut should be headed by Jamal As'ad 'Abd al-Malak, a party member and one of its leaders. I am pleased with and proud over his success. He headed a ticket on which all the others were Muslims and were known for their adherence to Islamic law and the Prophet's tradition. We challenged the other parties to give such an example, one in which we applied what we believed in, namely that they [non-Muslims] have the same rights and responsibilities as we have. His [Al-Malak's] success in Asyut is very significant, for it expresses the truth about the Egyptian people: They are religious but not prejudiced, and they are opposed to extremism in whatever form. [passage omitted]

Communique No 2,663 on Combat Actions 3-4 May
JN041719 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
 1700 GMT 4 May 87

[Communique No 2,663 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 4 May 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our triumphant forces, which are supported by God's victory, have continued their glorious defense of Iraq's land and sovereignty, as well as the dignity of the Iraqi people, inflicting further losses on the tyrannical Zionist Khomeyniite clique. The following is a roundup of the activities for last night and today:

1. Our courageous hawks carried out 30 combat missions today in destructive raids on enemy positions, groups, and weapons emplacements, inflicting additional losses. Our hawks returned safely to base, praise be to God.
2. Our bold helicopters went on 20 combat sorties against enemy units in the operational areas, inflicting losses on the scoundrels and their equipment. Our helicopters returned safely to base in God's care.
3. Through the intensive fire of our formations in the I Army Corps northern sector against enemy units before them, the following was accomplished: the destruction of seven vehicles, killing or wounding their occupants; the destruction of a bulldozer and the burning of a shovel [preceding word in English]; and the destruction of a number of weapons emplacements and the demolition of several ammunition dumps.
4. Our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah dealt effective blows with all their weapons to enemy positions and mortars, silencing a number of enemy sources of fire and inflicting casualties on the scoundrels. At another point in the same sector, three ammunition dumps were demolished and a vehicle was set ablaze.
5. Three enemy soldiers were killed and four weapons emplacements and an ammunition dump were destroyed in the sector held by the special I Army Corps, the Allahu Akbar Forces.
6. An enemy DShK machine gun nest and an observation post were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector. An ammunition dump was also demolished.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 4 May 1987

Saddam Praises War Production, Ba'th Party
JN030917 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 May 87

[Text] Baghdad, 2 May (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has reaffirmed his confidence in Iraq's successful and growing war production. The president was speaking at a ceremony in which a group of Ba'th Party members with 25 years of service were decorated with the party insignia. The president mentioned tangible facts, such as the production of mortars and mortar-carrying vehicles in record time.

The president said: The revolution succeeded in describing Arab conditions, noting the disadvantages of this situation in order to urge party cadres to overcome them. After all, these cadres are the conscience of the Arab nation and cannot accept a false description of the Arab or Iraqi situation. The revolution was carried out successfully; the regime was changed, and the party system of government was established. This is because the main objectives and general guidelines were original and genuine.

The president added: The party's ideology could depict the present and future and could define the broad guidelines needed to achieve our goals. However, the party allowed the strugglers, through their efforts, to experience life and to interact with its highest form, man, in order to bridge the gap between the unacceptable present and the future for which we fight. They employed vivid slogans that derive significance from the fact that they are coupled with honest and sincere work. They had faith in their nation, believing that the conditions of the people and the nation should be better.

The president said the Iraqi people's most important accomplishment was the reshaping of the Iraqi character to enable it to play its national, pan-Arab, and humanitarian role. He said Iraq is known to the world and even to the Iranians, who are unparalleled liars. In one battle, the president explained, one of them said: We lost 50. He did not specify what they lost, but he meant 50,000. However, people got the impression that they lost 50 soldiers. The president declared: We cannot refute their lies through our media. We cannot deal with them. What can we say? They claim they lost 50 while our figures are 40 or 50,000. How can we react to this? People abroad will continue to say that the same gap separates our figures from theirs even if we multiply their numbers by 10 or 20. It is all the same.

Egyptian Prime Minister, Delegation Arrive
JN051044 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
 1000 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi arrived in Amman today at the head of a high-ranking official delegation on a 3-day visit to Jordan. His stay will include meetings with His Majesty King Husayn, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, and other senior statesmen. He will also lead Egypt's delegation to the meetings of the sixth session of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian higher committee, while Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i will chair the proceedings for Jordan.

Dr Sidqi was accorded an official reception at Amman Airport. Among those on hand to greet him were Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, the deputy prime minister and minister of state for prime ministry affairs, some ministers from Jordan's delegation to the joint committee, and a number of other leading officials. A band played the Egyptian and Jordanian national anthems, and both Al-Rifa'i and Sidqi reviewed the honor guard.

Amman Press Carries Denial of Tripartite Summit

[Editorial Report] Amman *Jordan Times* in English and Amman *Al-Ra'y* and *Al-Dustur* in Arabic on 5 May publish reports citing news agencies on Jordanian Information Minister Muhammad al-Khatib's denial of a tripartite meeting held in a Jordanian border area among King Husayn, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. These stories cite the minister as telling *Reuter* that "all these are press rumors; we know nothing about it." The papers also quote accounts of the summit appearing in *The Washington Post* and Kuwait's *Al-Qabas*.

Amman *Sawt Al-Sha'b* in Arabic on 5 May makes no mention of the denial or the agencies' dispatches on the summit.

SAWT AL-SHA'B Views 'Israeli Maneuvers'
JN021101 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
 2 May 87 pp 18, 22

[From the "Last Column" by Sulayman Khayrallah: "Another Trial Balloon"]

[Text] No matter how skilled Peres and his trumpets are in orchestrating them, Zionist maneuvers cannot change facts and cannot manipulate matters to suit Israel's plans and what it seeks to implement.

It is no surprise that political pundits in Israel exploit new developments to build on them and channel efforts to convene an "effective" Middle East peace conference toward the one [conference] that Israel wants as a cover for direct negotiations and separate solutions.

An Israeli official who requested anonymity launched a new trial balloon, arranged by Peres, regarding the existence of an alleged agreement between Jordan and Israel on conditions for an international peace conference. It was said this agreement would soon

be discussed by the Israeli Cabinet, as if things had been finalized and the Israeli Government's approval was the only step needed to clinch it!

Israel's primary objective in launching this "rumor balloon" was to gauge reactions to the removal of the PLO as a principal party to the peace negotiations and to convene a conference in line with the Israeli-U.S. formula for it.

Israel's second objective was to cast doubt on Jordan's explicit stand, which views the conference as a real and effective framework for the peace process and one in which the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict will participate. This includes the Palestinian people represented by the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of this people, to whom this cause belongs and who are its protagonists.

The question that now arises is this: What was the purpose behind this new campaign of doubts? What was Peres trying to accomplish by exploiting opportunities following the recent PNC resolutions, and to which parties are these tendentious rumors addressed?

These Israeli maneuvers, which occur from time to time, cannot change the facts or budge firm stands one iota. If Peres is now trying to make political or electoral capital, his maneuver will fare no better than those which preceded it. The latest trial balloon will burst in the face of those who "blew it up."

'Zionist Hand' Seen in Hostile Campaign
JN040945 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
 4 May 87 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "The Prime Minister's Statement and Jordan's Constant Stand"]

[Text] It is not difficult for anyone to find the Zionist hand behind the recent media campaign against Jordan. Reports appearing in some foreign and Western news media seek to cast doubts on Jordan's constant stand regarding a political settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute — a position based on Arab understanding, as stipulated by the Fes peace plan and Arab summit resolutions.

As is its wont, the Israeli propaganda machine tried to throw dust in the eyes of the Arabs in order to derail Arab solidarity. They hoped to do so by distorting Jordan's image and constant pan-Arab stands, which cannot be changed or altered even by all the pressure in the world. These mass media exploited the PNC resolution abrogating the 11 February 1985 accord and Jordan's decision about a year earlier to freeze political coordination with the PLO leadership. On this basis, they tried to claim that Jordan's position on the issue of an international conference had changed.

Therefore, yesterday's statement by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i to the *Jordanian News Agency* stresses three facts from which Jordan has never deviated: Jordan believes a comprehensive, lasting solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute can be reached only through an international peace conference called by

the UN secretary general and attended by the UN Security Council's five permanent members. All parties to the dispute, including the PLO, must be there on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The goal must be to find a solution to the Palestinian question guaranteeing the return of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Second: Jordan is fully committed to the Arab summit resolutions, including the Rabat resolution, which viewed the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. Therefore, Jordan insists on the organization's participation in the work of an international conference. The Amman accord is only an attempt to enable the group to participate in the conference as part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Third: Jordan's conviction is that the party seeking to hamper the peace process and place obstacles in its way is the Israeli Government with both its wings: the Likud, which rejects the very idea of an international conference, and the Alignment, which wants an international conference to be a step toward direct bilateral talks, a ceremony and nothing more.

Therefore, Al-Rifa'i's statement clearly explains the principles of Jordan's policy. Jordan's constants are not a fickle political

mood but a comprehensive strategy that takes account of the Arab constants in whose formulation Jordan participated from the start. They reflect Jordan's credibility, which has always been above doubt.

It has become clear to every Arab that the goal of attempts to cast doubt on Jordan's stands is to fragment Arab ranks and plant mines of skepticism, which if detonated will change Arab solidarity from a deadly weapon against Israeli aggression to a double-edged sword perilous to its owners.

On the other hand, we do not rule out the possibility that the objective of this campaign is to cause an uproar to distract attention from the aggressive raids against civilians in southern Lebanon. Many Western and Eastern sources say these raids might be a prelude to a large-scale attack to contain Israel's internal crisis and reduce the world public's support for an international conference. The possibility of this conference is about to lead to the fall of the Israeli Government and expedite early elections, which will result in the domination of only one faction of the government.

Karami Makes Statement on Resignation
NC041401 Beirut Domestic Service In Arabic
 1300 GMT 4 May 87

[Statement by Prime Minister Rashid Karami, followed by remarks in response to questions from unidentified correspondents after a meeting of the General Authority in Beirut on 4 May — recorded]

[Text] [Karami] During the meeting of the General Authority, we reviewed developments in Lebanon, particularly in view of various economic, social, and political pressures. The situation compels he who has assumed responsibility to perceive the results for Lebanon. This, in turn, leads to fears that everything happening could have negative repercussions. At the same time, we believe that the proposals and solutions under discussion are designed to remedy issues and problems and terminate negative effects on people's lives and livelihood. In recent days, particularly on May Day, we listened to views and speeches which convinced numerous people that what is happening, if it was preplanned, has serious implications. If recent events are spontaneous, then the results will be more serious and have more far-reaching effects on the people's interests and this country's destiny.

When we gather together the views and proposals put forward, we discover that people with such divergent opinions can never reach agreement on a solution. This was highlighted by the latest attempt at Mansur Palace, which did last long. The meeting was suspended and adjourned, with the feeblest explanation. How can we be patient about what is happening, what we are witnessing, particularly in view of the frenzied posturing, one-upmanship, and slips of the tongue by this or that person? We listened to one who demanded [the country's] neutrality, the stationing of international forces, and the evacuation of foreigners and all forces from Lebanon. Another demanded that all forces be mobilized so that self-administration and similar proposals can be implemented. Such proposals cannot be considered without fear for the unity of this country's institutions, people, and territory.

We have stood up to fight and confront everything taking place here. We have reached the point of discussing ongoing strikes, with no one knowing how they will end. None of this will help us find solutions. Some are asking the prime minister not to sign a law approved unanimously by the Chamber of Deputies. I cannot reject such a law in this manner, because I approved it in the first place. The allocations agreed to by the Chamber of Deputies are to secure food, medicine, and clothes and to maintain our Army's equipment. How can a prime minister disapprove such a law after endorsing its issuance? If this is the intention, then I declare my responsibility for such laws and my approval of them, regardless of the position and influence of those who object. There is a public interest, and we are all responsible to it, especially the prime minister. Some have been calling on the government to resign. I consistently rejected this demand when it was made pointlessly, and with bad intentions. I did so out of service to the country and to ease the difficulties and pressures affecting the people. But today I have become convinced that everything that is happening is harmful to the interests of the Lebanese people and Lebanon in general. It is my duty to take a stand which I believe serves the interests of this country and its people and opens the way for

its salvation. Hence, I announce my resignation from the government. Thank you.

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, you have [words indistinct] and shed some light on some of the details. Why have you taken this sudden stand?

[Karami] I have said that after studying positions, considering current and future developments, putting Lebanon's interests first, and following a course that might lead it out of its difficulties, I have no alternative but to announce my resignation.

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, how do you see the coming stage, after announcing your resignation?

[Karami] Do not ask me such a question, because I do not want to discuss developments that might occur as a result of my action. Let us allow the passage of time to answer such a question. Thank you.

Gives Reasons for Resignation

NC050724 Beirut Voice of Lebanon In Arabic
 0515 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] The newspaper *Al-Safir* reports the following comments by Prime Minister Karami: After listening to the speeches delivered on 1 May and the positions they outlined, I came to the conclusion that it is no longer possible to search for solutions under the current formula. I felt that a continuation of the current state of affairs would lead to disaster. I made my decision because I could no longer tolerate the situation. Let people say what they will. Former President Sham'un now asserts that I have evaded my responsibility. So be it. I can no longer bear such a situation. After all, I am a human being.

Karami adds: This is strange logic. They demand that I resign and threaten me if I do not. I tell them there is no need for this uproar. I am simply withdrawing and leaving things to them.

Karami notes: They say that I am responsible for the hunger and for the rise of the dollar. They say that Karami boycotts the president and obstructs the implementation of decisions. Karami has become responsible for all disasters. Since this is what they believe, I am resigning. Let them get together and decide what to do. I have left the situation for them to deal with.

Karami states: Capricious decrees and individual decisions by ministers are allowed. However, the decisions made at a ministerial meeting in the presence of the Chamber of Deputies speaker are not! Karami adds: The current state of affairs among the Islamic ranks is no better. Name just one issue on which we are in agreement with Walid Junblatt. We are one body and still we do not meet. Tell me why Walid Junblatt does not attend ministerial meetings at Mansur Palace? Walid Junblatt objects to the law on the army and sharply criticizes laws he does not like. This is shameful. I expected Junblatt to resign after his 1 May speech in view of the qualities he attributed to the prime minister. Why does he stay in the cabinet? Let him resign.

When asked if a new cabinet will be formed, Karami replied: Let them try their luck.

Replying to a question on whether he will tender a written resignation, Karami said: There is no need. I have already tendered it verbally at the Chamber of Deputies. My resignation is public and official at Government House.

Asked whether the president might keep him in office to run state affairs, Karami replied: We are doing nothing. How can we run the state?

Says Israelis in E. Beirut

*NC050732 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0600 GMT 5 May 87*

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami has affirmed that he will not reverse his decision to resign. He said that some parties explain this resignation as satisfying the desires of others. To such people, Karami added, I wish to say that the Israeli presence is beginning to grow stronger in East Beirut once more. That avenue is now open. All information indicates that key figures in East Beirut and Israel are exchanging visits. Israeli officials have been seen regularly in the eastern sector. This proves that certain parties have placed a hefty wager on Israel.

Meets With Al-Jumayyil Adviser

*NC050830 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0800 GMT 5 May 87*

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami received Muhammad Shuqayr, President al-Jumayyil's adviser, at 1000 today. They discussed the resignation issue and prevailing conditions.

Prime Minister Karami also met with a number of official and military figures who asked him to withdraw his resignation and assume his responsibility in the difficult circumstances through which the country is passing. He also received a number of popular delegations.

Leaders React to Karami Resignation Decision

Al-Jumayyil Notes 'Disarray'

*NC050839 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0815 GMT 5 May 87*

[Text] In his speech to the Supreme Judicial Council, President Amin al-Jumayyil has stressed that he will deal with the emerging cabinet crisis in accordance with the line of duty, the interest of the homeland, and constitutional norms. He expressed hope that officials will follow their national conscience and base the foundations of Lebanon on justice and equality.

Al-Jumayyil noted the current atmosphere of disarray and fragmentation in which each party and individual speaks on behalf of only one segment of the country, faction, or party. In the midst of this atmosphere, he said, the institution of justice has continued to speak on behalf of all the Lebanese people without

discrimination. He addressed the judges, saying: For you, this is the foundation of justice. For me, it is the basis of rule.

Sham'un Criticizes Karami

*NC041740 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1615 GMT 4 May 87*

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami has announced his government's resignation. What is next? Former President Camille Sham'un has said the next step is to form a new government. Karami's political mistakes are numerous and serious, and his resignation is an attempt to evade his responsibility and avoid making the decisions he should have made, Sham'un added.

[Begin recording][Sham'un] Karami's resignation at this particular time is an evasion of responsibility and the measures the government should have adopted in the financial, economic, and social areas to save the country from the dangers it faces. Karami's political mistakes are numerous and serious. He has proven more than once that he largely lacks patriotic feelings for Lebanon. This explains his boycott of the regime and his refusal to adopt the positive positions expected of him for a long period of time, when the country was in dire need of constructive and fruitful work.

[Unidentified correspondent] Your Excellency: Why has this resignation come now, despite the fact that the call for Prime Minister Karami's resignation was made more than a year ago?

[Sham'un] It is true that this call has been repeated for over a year, but he never responded, saying he did not intend to resign. He resigned today because the situation in the country compels him, in his capacity as prime minister, to adopt radical and harsh measures to save the country from the social, economic, and financial dangers it faces. But he prefers to run away. The reasons cited in his resignation statement convince no one. The truth is that he is evading his responsibilities.

[Correspondent] In general, can this be deemed a positive step that might advance things?

[Sham'un] It might be.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency: What do you expect in the coming period?

[Sham'un] [Passage indistinct]

[Correspondent] Do you believe a new government will be formed soon, or do you expect a vacuum to develop?

[Sham'un] I hope this will not result in a vacuum, and I hope a new government will be formed as soon as possible to assume its duty. [end recording]

Al-Husayni Criticizes Decision

NC041940 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1915 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has said that Prime Minister Raashid Karami's resignation is a loud protest against the current situation. Speaking at a banquet to break the fast this evening, he added: In our battle of destiny, we will not let ourselves be overcome by despair. It is unacceptable to live in one society, one country, and benefit from this society's fruits and stability and then shirk the duty of solidarity with and responsibility toward other groups.

Al-Huss Comments

NC041631 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1556 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] We have just received a report on the reaction of Dr Salim al-Huss, minister of labor and education, to Prime Minister Karami's resignation. Al-Huss said: We understand Prime Minister Karami's position; he found himself with no alternative in view of the current, frenzied positions. He added: We hope this step will be viewed in a positive light. After all, it provides an opportunity to form a new government capable of dealing with the situations our government could not remedy. This, in turn, will permit us to alleviate the people's suffering and rescue the country from further deterioration.

Parliamentarian Comment

NC050954 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0900 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] The independent parliamentary bloc has reviewed developments in light of the prime minister's resignation. The bloc maintains that his resignation was the natural result of his government's inability to function as a team, its abandonment of its responsibilities, and its failure to put forward any program to rescue Lebanon. The bloc thinks that quick action must be taken to form a harmonious government that embodies the desire for coexistence among the Lebanese people and restores respect for the provisions of the Constitution.

'Strict' Security Measures Follow Resignation

NC050619 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0600 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] The Syrian forces and Lebanese regulars took strict security measures immediately after the announcement of the prime minister's resignation yesterday afternoon. They established checkpoints in most West Beirut neighborhoods and deployed patrols on the streets. These measures will remain in effect today.

Kan'an Arrives in West Beirut; Meets Ministers

NC050537 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
0345 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an [chief of Syrian intel-

ligence in Lebanon] arrived in Beirut last night. He held exploratory contacts with Muslim ministers, and reportedly asked them to visit Damascus in a bid to bridge their differences.

Communist Official Analyzes Iranian Role

AU021750 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 23 Apr 87 p 6

[Interview with Sa'dallah Mazra'ani, member of the Politburo of the Lebanese Communist Party Central Committee and chief editor of the newspaper *Al-Nida'*, by Rude Pravo staff journalists Jan Kovarik, Milan Madr, Dalibor Macha, and Vera Posledni during Mazra'ani's recent visit to the CSSR: "Lebanon and Its Problems" — date not given]

[Excerpts][passage omitted][Journalists] What is your opinion of the entry of Syrian forces into West Beirut?

[Mazra'ani] Generally speaking, Syria plays an important role in the region and in Lebanon. It rejects the Camp David accords and maintains very good relations with the USSR and the other socialist countries. Therefore, overall, we maintain friendly ties and an alliance with the Ba'th Party in Syria. There is no doubt that Syria gave great assistance to the Lebanese people's struggle against Israeli aggression. We see the entry of Syrian troops into the capital as positive. In a Party Central Committee statement, we noted that the entry of the Syrian Armed Forces was actually the only way to ensure security in Beirut.

[Journalists] How long do you think the Syrian troops will stay there?

[Mazra'ani] This, of course, is a very important question. Lebanon's geographical location and the current situation gives it greater importance. We do not agree that the Syrian units should be withdrawn in the current atmosphere. In this way Syria has actually created a certain counterweight vis-a-vis Israel, which occupies a part of Lebanese territory. We will agree to the withdrawal of Syrian units after the Israelis pull out. [passage omitted]

[Journalists] What impact do the radical Shi'ite organizations have in Lebanon?

[Mazra'ani] It is a question of Iran's influence. We know Iran is a country that is currently under the strong influence of religion. It is trying to preach in all Arab countries what the Iranians call the Islamic Appeal [vyzva]. And Shi'ism, which is actually the state religion in Iran, has a fairly strong position in Lebanon, too. Iranians are trying to exert influence through the Lebanese Shi'ites. They are sending certain activists, and military experts to train soldiers. And, of course, they are also sending money. In addition to that, they are active ideologically, that is, through religion, with the goal of creating an Islamic state in Lebanon, just as happened in Iran. They say that building a socialist regime in any Arab country is directly opposed to Islam.

[Journalists] Radical Shi'ite organizations are responsible for the kidnappings of hostages.

[Mazra'ani] Yes, they see this as one way of creating a climate

of fear, while using the same means in a bid to force the West to change its attitude...

[Journalists] Are they also to blame for the murders of communists?

[Mazra'ani] They can be charged with them. The primary explanation, which they use officially, is that they are communists, who are nonbelievers and, thus, an alien element in the religious sense of the word.

Of course, we, as communists, have taken an open stance on this activity. We are unequivocally opposed to the establishment of a Christian or Islamic republic. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Discusses Al-Asad Visit to USSR
JN041225 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
 1115 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] The Council of Ministers met under Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm at 1100 today. During the session, the Council reviewed the current political situation in the region. Dr al-Kasm explained the special positive results of President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to the Soviet Union and the important strategic strides achieved through the relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the Soviet Union. This is in addition to the complete understanding which prevailed during the talks between the two friendly countries' leaders, Comrades Hafiz al-Asad and Mikhail Gorbachev, on all political, economic, and military questions.

After discussing some political issues, the Council of Ministers reviewed recent economic measures. On this subject, Dr al-Kasm affirmed that the constant support for the private sector's productive and effective initiatives in industry, agriculture, tourism, and elsewhere stems from party principles and government policy. It is an approach that is reinforced, expanded, and integrated with the public sector's leading role, the productivity and profits of which are growing. He also said the contribution of the public and private sectors to great productive strides in industry and agriculture and in activating export channels is our main objective. The joint, integrated contribution will ensure the unbroken development of the strong, firm basis of our national economy and a better life for all our people.

The Council of Ministers also discussed a number of details pertaining to agriculture, irrigation, industry, and government employees. In addition, it reviewed the implementation of past decisions and measures and their proper execution by those concerned. The Council of Ministers approved resolutions pertaining to the subjects discussed in accordance with state policy in all fields.

Vice President Mashariqah Addresses May Day Rally
JN011440 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
 1115 GMT 1 May 87

[Speech by Vice President Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah at a rally in Damascus Marking May Day — read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Comrades, brother workers, on 1 May each year our toiling masses and working class in our steadfast, struggling country celebrate international Labor Day, the day of toilers, the day of producers, the day of those who work for the glory and prosperity of the homeland. This is the day of the working class, which toils day and night to build the material base for steadfastness and confrontation, and establish the pillars of a progressive, socialist society. On this occasion, and while participating in the May Day celebrations, I would like to convey heartfelt greetings to the masses of toilers, producers, and the working class from brother struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the republic. [passage omitted]

Comrades and brothers, the imperialist-Zionist onslaught against Syria is increasing at this stage of the Arab nation's struggle. The imperialists and Zionists are applying all kinds of political and economic pressure to draw Syria from its policy of struggle. They are working to force it to abandon its firm, principled stands on various Arab issues, especially the question of liberating occupied Arab land and restoring usurped pan-Arab rights. Premier of these are our Palestinian people's rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state on their national soil. These pressures increased when our masses, led by struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, foiled the imperialist and Zionist plots at home and abroad, which sought to undermine our country's steadfastness and force Syria to submit to their liquidationist plans and capitulatory solutions. The imperialists and Zionists forgot that these pressures would be to no avail thanks to the steadfastness of our people, who are united around Syria's progressive national policy under the leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad.

Syria will continue to uphold its path of freedom and struggle, and will remain committed to its firm, principled stands on our pan-Arab causes. Syria will continue to oppose and foil imperialist and Zionist plots and will remain a bastion of steadfastness and confrontation defending the honor, dignity, and rights of the Arab nation. It will prevent the imperialists and Zionists from implementing their aggressive policy in the Arab region — a policy through which they seek to dominate the entire Arab homeland; control its political, military, economic, and cultural resources; and establish Greater Israel from the Euphrates to the Nile at the expense of Arab territory, rights, and nation. [passage omitted]

Comrades and brothers, our working class and our struggling masses will continue their triumphant march — the march of construction and freedom, the march of progress and socialism — under the leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the republic, who is leading the Arab nation on the road to victory and liberation. In doing so, we will rely on the support of the world's progressive and freedom-loving forces led by the socialist countries behind the USSR, the state which is friendly and faithful to the Arab nation, is a strong ally of the Arab masses and their just causes, and a supporter of all those fighting for liberty, progress, sovereignty, and independence. Relations between the USSR and our steadfast, struggling country are marked by deep roots, firmness, and continuous development in the service of our common struggle.

Our struggling masses will continue their triumphant march until their aspirations to construction and liberation are met and until their great pan-Arab aims of unity, freedom, and socialism are realized. [passage omitted]

Minister of Education Al-Sayyid Leaves for USSR
JN041509 Damascus SANA in Arabic
 1415 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Damascus, 4 May (SANA) — Minister of Education Muhammad Najib al-Sayyid Ahmad has left for Moscow at the head of a delegation of education officials. He is visiting the

USSR at the invitation of his Soviet counterpart. The minister will hold talks with Soviet officials on bilateral relations, with special emphasis on ties in education.

Damascus Radio on Need for Close Arab Cooperation

JN041501 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic

1130 GMT 4 May 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, the convening of an international conference on peace in the Middle East has become a pressing international issue. The calls for the conference are growing. The states calling for the conference insist that it has become an absolute imperative if there is to be a settlement in the Middle East, one of the world's dangerous hotbeds of tension and war.

Even in Israel, the idea of an international conference has become a big problem creating difficulties among the parties in the coalition government. This is despite the fact that they agree on rejecting the bases laid down by the United Nations for the conference. They feel it should be a gateway to direct negotiations between Israel and separate Arab parties, thus absolving themselves of the need to comply with UN resolutions calling for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab territories and the recognition of the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable national rights.

The view of Israeli officials who wish to see an international conference is the only one in the world. [sentence as heard] There are other views, including that of the United States, which weakens the official American tendency to accept the idea of the conference. Such a view tries to reconcile — an impossible task — the original idea of the conference strongly advocated by the Soviet Union with the Israeli view of the conference, its proceedings, and its jurisdiction.

Israel's hostility to the framework set by the United Nations for the conference — the hostility of those who agree to it in words alone, as well as those who totally oppose it — is understandable: Any international conference convened according to UN resolutions will ask Israel to hand over territory it occupied and

rights it usurped. Consequently, the call for an international conference within the framework defined by the United Nations and the binding bases in UN resolutions on Palestine and the Middle East is a major political move hostile to Israel. It is Israel that has defied the United Nations and is seeking to annex the occupied Arab territories, thus preventing the Palestinian Arab people from fully exercising their national rights. Any compromise on the bases laid down by the United Nations for the international conference is a compromise in favor of the Israeli aggressors and their defenders in the U.S. Administration.

Obviously, the Arabs, who in their Fes summit resolutions have demonstrated that they are prepared to accept a settlement leading to a just peace based on UN principles and resolutions, do not oppose an international conference under UN auspices. They do so if all the parties concerned participate, along with the permanent members of the UN Security Council, with the aim of implementing UN resolutions. The Arabs have an interest in the convening of such a conference.

The increasing international pressure to convene an international peace conference makes it incumbent on the Arabs to review the state of inter-Arab relations and collective Arab action. After all, Arab national interests and their decisive conflict with the racist Zionist entity make close Arab cooperation in all fields a necessity if occupied Arab lands are to be freed and usurped Arab rights recovered with our available means.

Syria has always been foremost among those calling for Arab cooperation that channels all Arab energies and resources toward the confrontation front with the Arab nation's principal enemy and toward the Arab national battle with the Zionist enemy. Syria's hand has always been, and continues to be, extended to all Arab parties committed to Arab summit resolutions and that wish to fight the national battle against the Arab nation's national enemy.

In view of its national responsibility and the fact it is shouldering the burden of the battle, confronting hostile plots, and the struggle to liberate the occupied Arab territory and recover usurped rights, Syria will spare no effort to bring about joint Arab action against the Israeli enemy.

Shamir Interviewed on Conference, Other Issues
TA040845 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
 0703 GMT 4 May 87

["Special" Independence Day interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Me'ir Einstein, military correspondent Shmu'el Tal, and political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'ami; date and place not given — recorded]

[Text][Ben-'Ami] Mr Prime Minister, on Israel's 39th Independence Day, our skies seem to be overcast with the cloud of a certain crisis on the Israeli political scene: The Cabinet, which is supposed to be the foundation of this nation, is in the midst of a crisis the people have been describing as focusing on the subject of peace. At the outset of this program, we would like to ask if you, too, see this as a crisis situation and if there is room for apprehension as a result.

[Shamir] Crises are normal in democracies, particularly in regimes in which the governments are founded on coalitions. The very notion of coalition is an invitation for crises. During the tenure of the national unity government, we have encountered several crises that we have overcome. I very much hope that we will be able to overcome the present one as well, not because I object in principle to a change of government, but because I believe that if anyone thinks that this crisis can be resolved solely by early elections, he must realize that by saying so he is assuming a very serious responsibility. Early elections, held now, could damage the country, especially its economy, so it is necessary to think very carefully to see if there is no other solution and no other option. After all, when we first established the national unity government we thought about all of this. We knew that the components of this government differ over many issues, so that crises could erupt occasionally. To overcome this, anticipating the potential for problems, we formulated a work plan in every sphere — political, economic, social. Assuming that the partners to the coalition adhere to the plan, we will be able to avoid crises. We invested a lot of effort in phrasing this plan, otherwise known as the basic guidelines. I am convinced that today, too, if we are faithful to those guidelines, there will be no crisis, and each party will remain loyal to its principles. I therefore believe that it is necessary to continue to maintain the unity government while observing the basic guidelines we stipulated at the time. If we do this, we will overcome the crisis and give Israel another year, or rather another 18 months, of blessed stability.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Prime Minister, do you not share the view held by Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres that peace is pressing? What, after all, is the vice prime minister trying to explain? He claims that he is not interested in the international conference as a subject per se, but that he wants to use it as a framework for direct bilateral negotiations between Israel and Jordan because Jordan may be sending the very first signals of readiness to sit down and talk to us. Do you not think that peace is really pressing?

[Shamir] Peace is always pressing. We all want peace, after all, but to state that it is necessary to make a choice between the path of peace or that of objection to peace is to pull the wool over people's eyes. This is not the choice; we all want peace. After all, the past can provide the best proof of this: The very peace

everyone is so proud of and praise themselves for, which we were able to promote and advance so greatly through the Camp David accords, was achieved by the Likud. There is no division between proponents of peace versus opponents of peace; we are all in favor of peace. The problem is how to march forward toward it, and what course of action to pursue.

What is currently being offered us is something I do not believe can be discussed in haste. I do not think it is possible to decide at once whether these proposals constitute the road to peace or not. These proposals are not yet ripe. They involve a number of risks. We cannot be at all sure that some elements in them will be honored and fulfilled. So the following can happen, which causes me great fear, which I do not hesitate to state openly: We may quarrel over an immature and incomplete plan, proceed to hold elections, and in the end none of it will materialize. In other words, we will then have to pay the price for it, but will not enjoy its advantages. So what is the point of all this? Let us check out carefully and seriously whether indeed these proposals involve a serious opportunity for peace. Naturally, even if the opportunity does exist, there is always the question of the conditions: We object to peace at all costs. I believe the Alignment, too, shares this view. Let us examine the price and then decide whether it is necessary to part ways or not. What is all this rush? Why run amuck?

[Einstein] Mr Shamir, you talk about the risks while Mr Peres talks about the opportunities raised by the new proposals. The question is whether indeed the evolving crisis this time — as distinct from previous times — is not one of principle, and whether, since it seems it is a fundamental dispute between the Alignment and the Likud, you will not this time really face elections at a date earlier than originally scheduled? Do you not think that this is indeed the forecast of the development of events despite your desire to put elections off until their due date?

[Shamir] This may be a crisis over principles, and the differences of opinion are fundamental. But let us first find out whether this is indeed the case. This is what I am saying: Let us examine the proposals offered us, submitted to us. Let us take a close and deep look at them, review all their aspects, and then decide whether they really require that we part ways or not. I would not work to preserve the Cabinet at whatever cost, but similarly I object to the disbandment of the government at any cost. My impression is that this particular goal is prominent now. But I think it is not good for Israel. So let us check and review first.

[Tal] Do you think that some changes have really taken place in King Husayn's traditional positions?

[Shamir] I still do not know. I must say that we have been getting so many announcements, hearing so many declarations, and given the interdependence of the positions of the various elements, when you hear one thing from Jordan and the next day you hear another statement totally opposite to the first; and when on the other hand there is also the Soviet position — the question is what happens if the Soviets do not wish to go to a conference under the conditions acceptable to Israel? What will Jordan's position then be? Will it proceed even without the Soviets?

[Tal] Could it be that Jordan had received some promises of which you are unaware?

[Shamir] In that case, I would like to know them. How can one make a decision on the basis of things you do not know? These moves, after all, can be decisive both in terms of the risks and the opportunities. Is anyone asking us, or for that matter can anyone ask us, to pursue far-reaching moves on the basis of the unknown?

[Tal] And I assume you have not been given the answers to this from the vice prime minister?

[Shamir] I am speaking on the basis of what I know. What I have learned to date cannot constitute the basis for a clear-cut decision to go ahead. There are many more factors supporting opposition to it than would justify voting for it. However, I am prepared to discuss the matter, examine things, check them out and see what we can expect here.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Prime Minister, can one gain the impression from what you have just said that in the talks with the Americans, as well — and we know about the document presented by U.S. Ambassador Pickering and talks you have been holding with him — and the replies you have been getting from the Americans, you still think that you have not been provided with sufficient guarantees to calm you as to what you feel are risks which the Foreign Minister's office regards as clear, assured, and true?

[Shamir] This is just what I have been talking about: Rushing things works to our disadvantage. Even the Americans find that not everything is clear! You can hear this in the declarations made by U.S. leaders. They are not yet clear.

[Tal] Even though it was described as a U.S. document?

[Shamir] I would not like to get into the sphere which is between a leak and real information. I have read interviews with the secretary of state and with others, and it seems things have not yet been fully worked out. Perhaps they cannot be finalized in one form, but this is why it is necessary to examine these matters, and this is the job of the foreign minister and the Foreign Ministry: to check and present the Cabinet with the facts. And if there is any thought about putting this to the vote of the people, then the people should be presented with something that is ripe, complete, fully worked out. Why stir up a debate in the public, or exacerbate an existing dispute, as long as we do not know all the considerations and are as yet unaware of all the clauses? Some claim that the problem of Judaea and Samaria is already topical and that the question of whether they should remain within Israel's boundaries or whether Israel is giving them up is at our doorstep. If this is the problem, then let it be presented as such!

[Einstein] Perhaps the question of Judaea and Samaria is really topical, with the Alignment saying openly that it is ready to make a territorial compromise, while it is common knowledge that the Likud objects to such a compromise in Judaea and Samaria?

[Shamir] But this was known even when we first established the national unity government. That is why we said that despite this difference, we would go ahead and set up such a government that

could function for 4 years, assuming that we would remain faithful to certain conditions, which are: direct negotiations in which we will see whether or not there is any chance at all for what is known as a territorial compromise. From what we know so far, the Arabs do not want a territorial compromise. So what are we fighting about? What are we squabbling over?

[Tal] Do you think that the unity government, being a national unity government, could conduct direct negotiations in light of well-known differences of opinion between the Alignment and the Likud?

[Shamir] Definitely, but first of all it is necessary to obtain the maximum for Israel. Then the time for a decision will come, at which point perhaps all the sides will work out a united position, or it may be impossible to work out a common stance, in which case we will part ways and then we will have to approach the people. But this state of affairs has not yet ripened, the time for it has not yet come.

I have often said that I had approached the Arab side and said that if they want to disband the national unity government, they should raise proposals that would in the least be acceptable to one partner to the Cabinet. The question is whether such proposals actually exist now. I still cannot see them. I also said something else, that if, for example, a proposal for a territorial compromise acceptable to the Alignment is raised, I may not accept it, but I will nevertheless regard this as a sign of progress on the part of the Arabs in the direction of peace. But, again, I still have not seen it. It is impossible to forcefully bring this about and wave something at the public, claiming that this already exists. Let us first see whether this is truly a proposal with which, let us not say the Alignment, but the Alignment platform, can live. Let us see this. But we still have not been able to do so.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, in reply to one of the first questions we presented to you, you said earlier that you are not at all convinced that the foreign minister is truly guided by the desire for peace and that it may very well be that the idea of holding early elections is his guiding principle. During the early phases of the unity government, it appeared as though when the Cabinet encountered a crisis, when you truly seemed to have reached almost the end of the road, you two — Yitzhaq Shamir and Shim'on Peres — sat down and, on the basis of the personal understanding between yourselves resolved the problem. Yet the feeling that now prevails is that there has recently been a personal cut between you two, otherwise, why should you not sit down in an orderly fashion and try to resolve between yourselves this issue of your view versus his view of the international conference?

[Shamir] Look, I have no objection to this. First of all, I never mentioned the foreign minister against the background of this [desire to bring about early elections]; you know that I shun and loathe personal conflicts. Yet I have frequently heard the foreign minister express himself against the system of not talking to one another. But he has been saying this to external elements. I say: It is likewise necessary to implement this method internally, too. Let us not refrain from talking to each other; let us discuss things, clarify them, try to convince each other, or perhaps be persuaded to take a position different from our original one. I believe this system should be employed.

[Einstein] There has been talk about elections. Do you think that the public is interested in elections now? How will the people regard those who take us to early elections?

[Shamir] I believe the public is not interested in elections, and in this case I identify with the public. I do not want elections, nor do I see any justification for elections to be held now.

[Tal] But, Sir, in a democracy elections are, after all, held at set intervals, and the original date for the elections was in another year and a few months. So what is so disastrous about holding the elections earlier? Does that year make such a critical difference?

[Shamir] First of all, the difference is of 1 and 1/2 years. In Israel, 18 months can be a very long time. In 18 months it is possible to ruin a lot, although it is also possible to improve a lot. Therefore, I in fact have never, God forbid, demanded the cancellation of the institution of elections as a whole, as no one would accept it and I, too, would not support it. What I do say, however, is that since the elections are set for another 18 months, let us exhaust this period.

[Tal] Mr Shamir, perhaps you are afraid of early elections because the latest polls have predicted an Alignment victory?

[Shamir] Look, if I were to rely on polls, I would have long ago withdrawn from any political activity, seeing that I would never have stood a chance. This was the case before the latest elections and before the previous to those elections. Look, the best parameter to gauge moods are elections themselves.

[Ben-'Ami] But the subject of peace has never featured as the cause for, or central subject over which elections have been held in Israel. Can such an issue not be turned into cause for early elections?

[Shamir] I have just said that the issue is not yet sufficiently clear to provide the ground to claim: Here we have a peace proposal; one side favors accepting it, while the other says it should not be accepted. This is definitely not the case right now.

[Einstein] Can this not appear as though...

[Shamir interrupting] There are all sorts of rumors, reports, views, and assessments. But I say that if indeed people claim that it is worthwhile going to the polls over such a thing, then let us see what it is, find out precisely what we are talking about. We all know that an international conference is a bad thing, but even the Alignment admits that we are not talking about an international conference; it is an opening of some type or another. This is very unclear and very questionable, even to the foreigners, as I have had the chance to hear and see. I am not saying there is nothing to it; but let us check and see. It is still unclear.

[Einstein] Do you not fear that the Likud might be presented as going to elections on the basis of the rejection of a proposal of peace negotiations?

[Shamir] But no such thing exists! No such proposal has been made. I am not saying that every proposal should be accepted; I do not believe that we should engage in peace talks at all costs. Never. Even if the majority of the people say that it is necessary to embark on peace talks at all costs, even if I realize that I will be defeated, I will still object to it. However, I am convinced that our people have not reached such a level of such extreme disregard for their interests and will vote for peace negotiations, or peace, at all costs. After all, all the years the Arabs have been suggesting that we make peace for the price they want! I recall Al-Nasir saying once: Sure, I am ready to give them a state that would stretch over a territory covering Tel Aviv's Great Synagogue. But this was a joke! So perhaps this area round the Great Synagogue could be expanded, but after all, we are not talking about this! Some say that the Likud, or Shamir, want to drag their feet and postpone matters; this is not true. I have no desire whatsoever to footdrag. I want things to be clear. I want to know what I am about to vote on and what I will ask the voters in this country to cast their ballot on, should elections be held. I do not want any ambiguity; I do not want there to be an argument here over the facts themselves. And all this can be checked; it is possible to examine all this. So this could take some time, so what? Is this the most important argument when central state matters are at issue?

[Einstein] Mr Shamir, you mentioned certain things that are currently undergoing examination or reassessment. But there are other things that are also being investigated. Right now, two respectable committees are probing the Pollard affair. Do you share Mr Rabin's view that the Eban committee is not a commission of inquiry and that it is devoid of legal authority?

[Shamir] The so-called Eban committee is a subcommittee of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee for intelligence. It is examining this issue within the framework of its jurisdiction. Certainly it is not a legal committee, and there is no one who has or would say as much. As long as it is operating and dealing with this issue, I would prefer to avoid saying anything on the way it functions or the conclusions it will reach.

[Tal] What about its power? Do you think it can submit conclusions and recommendations, or do you agree with Mr Rabin who maintains that this is not the case?

[Shamir] No one ever talked about it before the committee started working on this case. Nor do I know what precisely people like Rabin have in mind. I simply have no idea. For the time being, the subcommittee is investigating the subject, and it may issue conclusions or summations of its investigation. There has never been a similar precedent to such a thing in Israel. I believe this is the first time that a Knesset committee has handled such an issue.

[Tal] Why, then, do we have a sense that the decisionmaking echelon fears it somehow?

[Shamir] I do not know. I have no fear of it. I have nothing to be afraid of.

[Ben-'Ami] Perhaps the fear results from the fact that this is actually a committee made up of politicians and that some politicians are interested in settling accounts with others?

[Shamir] Certainly there is a grain of truth in what you are saying, but the Knesset is inhabited by politicians and if a Knesset committee conducts a probe, this should be taken into consideration. But this has not prevented U.S. Congressional committees, for example, whose members, too, are politicians, from investigating all sorts of things, and sometimes the investigators transcend their political views or rather their political interests. At any rate, let us wait and see.

[Einstein] Perhaps, then, it would be worthwhile to have a legal, state commission of inquiry into the affair?

[Shamir] For a variety of reasons totally unrelated to the possible results of such a probe, we thought — and still do — that insofar as the interests of Israel — of the state itself, not of any particular individual — are concerned, it would not be advisable to appoint a state commission of inquiry into the matter. You saw that the Cabinet decided to set up a fact-finding committee, which is also looking into the matter.

[Ben-'Ami] Do you think that this fact-finding committee is providing a good answer to the problem?

[Shamir] I think it provides the best answer under the circumstances.

[Ben-'Ami] May I, perhaps, ask you whether the Cabinet indeed voted against establishing a commission of inquiry because this would have entailed the inclusion of people outside the circle of confidants in the secrets of the affair? Also, do you not think that the fact that external people have been summoned by the fact-finding committee and lawyers have been commissioned to provide legal assistance has not, in the final analysis, still broadened the circle of people in the know?

[Shamir] It is true that the circle has widened, but this is evidently a necessary outcome of the very fact that an investigation, or an examination, is being conducted. We thought that a state commission of inquiry would involve a much broader circle, which could harm Israel's national interests. That is why today we have two committees looking into the matter. I suggest that we abstain from sticking our noses too deeply in what they are doing, or what is being done in these committees, and wait patiently.

[Ben-'Ami] Israel is marking its 39th independence day, still young. But it seems that in its 38th year, the intelligence community suffered some blows: the Vanunu affair, the issue of the [forged British] passports, and then the Shin Bet affair, the Pollard affair, and the like. You personally belonged to that community for many years. What is happening? Is this a case of fatigue?

[Shamir] I would first of all like to say that there is no laxity or qualitative decline in the operations of our intelligence bodies. All in all, they are doing a very important job, have been scoring many achievements — more so than in the past — and they have been doing their job and preserving the state's security success-

fully and continuously. This is a well-known phenomenon that happens in other countries, as well, where in this aspect of state activity there are sometimes hitches. These mishaps should be investigated so that lessons can be drawn in order to prevent their recurrence. The fact that these cases all accumulated in the past 12 months is, I believe, very much coincidental, because the affairs that were uncovered after all began earlier and could have remained unknown; but the fact remains that they were revealed. Perhaps the difference lies in the fact that today secret matters can more easily be disclosed than in any time in the past, thanks to the media's alertness and possibly also due to a laxity in the determination of the people who are privy to secrets to keep them confidential — and here perhaps is the real show of laxity. Perhaps in this area there is a certain tendency to evince greater permissiveness, influenced by events in the rest of the world, such as in the United States and Europe. This is why there has been an accumulation of such affairs. Yet I would like to tell you and our public at large that we have very effective and useful means, very dedicated personnel, to preserve this sphere of maintaining Israel's security.

And since you mentioned my past experience, it was not such a rich experience in this realm, but I am bound by duty to state, based on that experience of mine, that what we have today is far superior in terms of quality and achievement to anything that existed at the time that I had a close view of it.

[Einstein] Mr Shamir, you must be just as aware as we are of the pressure currently brought to bear on the security branches, in view of all the affairs that cropped up over the last few years, and more so recently. Do you not fear that this pressure might, perhaps, result in something undesirable in that the system that is expected to foil attempts against us might start exercising greater caution and that its members might begin to ask themselves what is the purpose and reason of all this, query their superiors if they have the authority and license to operate, and begin seeking legal counsel before they launch an operation? How do you view the potential danger of the accumulation of this type of pressure?

[Shamir] Look, your questions are highly justifiable and there is a degree of logic in them. There is always the fear that if the pressure on these systems mounts, they might show a great degree of reserve and be hesitant in doing their daily job of maintaining our security and finding hostile elements and sabotaging their acts. Yes, this danger does exist. We must beware of this danger. Therefore I think we must not be rash in appointing commissions of inquiry, which trigger the curiosity of first of all the local public as well as all sorts of external elements. It is necessary to investigate these malfunctions in order to prevent mishaps, but at the same time it is necessary to beware of wreaking any damage upon the effectiveness, willingness, and flexibility of these services.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Prime Minister, the issue of wiretapping has recently cropped up. Would you have approved this type of bugging, attributed to the top IDF echelons, today?

[Shamir] I do not know the specifics of what happened there or what the reasons for them were. Yet in every country there exist rules for eavesdropping, and they must be carefully weighed and

should be executed within the most limited confines lest they exceed the absolutely necessary. This is shameful, and bugging is antidemocratic. It is a crude intervention in the affairs of the individual, the citizen. Yet sometimes this is a must that is beyond reproach. But then it is necessary to define this very clearly and avoid its expansion.

[Einstein] When you talk about wiretapping a major general, you should bear in mind that on the other side of the telephone line could be a minister, perhaps even the defense minister, or even sometimes the prime minister.

[Shamir] This is precisely why it is necessary to preserve the absolutely necessary framework and avoid, at all costs, any expansion thereof.

[Tal] Mr Shamir, the IDF is currently undergoing the end of a period of severe cuts. Do you think that the appropriate levels, the senior decisionmaking echelons, are conducting an in-depth and serious discussion of what we should expect militarily now and in the next few years, by which I mean the future battlefield, the correct allocation of funds, and the size of the army?

[Shamir] This is truly one of the most serious problems we are facing. It is no secret that the IDF is too big for Israel and demands too large a portion of the Israeli economy. The problem has always been more acute at the beginning of fiscal years, and is summed up in how much we can allot to the IDF or other services. A sound and stable economy is a reversible element, although a very important one, constituting part of the state's security system. When one delves into these issues, one cannot avoid the conclusion that one must expand the economic potential to be able to provide the IDF with what it requires. It is not a question of priorities or preference; it is difficult to divide portions among security, education, health, when the cake is small. The only solution is to make a larger cake so that it could be divided into more portions. I consequently believe that it is necessary to place the emphasis on increasing the economic potential, production, productivity, and export so that we can give more — to the IDF, too.

[Tal] Mr Shamir, 1 or 2 weeks ago, we noticed that peace in the north was violated in one fell swoop; tension mounted there within a period of 2 days to the point where we felt it necessary to warn Amal and drop leaflets over southern Lebanon. Do you think that we might find ourselves today in a situation in which we might have to make good on the threats included in those leaflets and force upon the villages of southern Lebanon a situation they will find difficult to live with?

[Shamir] I hope not, but if we do issue threats, we must likewise be ready to implement them. I think the threats were effective and will do their job. After all, none of us is interested in engaging in deeper IDF involvement in southern Lebanon, but if this is necessary and we are forced to do so, we will.

[Tal] Mr Shamir, the Cabinet will be asked to decide on the Lavi in the next few days. This is a rather large project involving great expense, and some people have already expressed their wish that this be the final decision, or rather the last time the Cabinet is called upon to make a decision on it one way or the other. Do

you believe that the Lavi will ultimately be included in the Air Force's order of battle?

[Shamir] It is very difficult to express a final view at this juncture, as the Cabinet has not yet debated it. I cannot imagine that those who will suggest forgoing this project are truly not interested in the Lavi. They will raise their reasons why we cannot afford to implement this great project. I would like the Lavi project to continue and enter the IDF's order of battle, but if I am presented with proof and evidence to show that it is absolutely impossible, I will give this thought. Yet I think we should all be interested in developing this Israeli aircraft.

[Tal] Can the defense budget bear the burden alone?

[Shamir] This is exactly the question, and we will have to answer it. I think we will hold a very thorough debate on this, possibly involving deep differences of opinion, requiring a decision. Right now, I would not like to make a binding commitment, but personally I would very much want to see the Lavi reach the completion of the project and feature in the IDF's order of battle.

[Tal] Mr Shamir, in your earlier answers, when you talked against early elections, you noted the need for and importance of maintaining economic stability. I understand that this is the first priority item on the Cabinet's agenda. Yet it seems, or so is our impression, that as prime minister, you are less involved in economic matters than your predecessor.

[Shamir] I do not think I am uninvolved, and I do not need to compare any measure of action on my part to the degree of involvement shown by anyone else. I think I am involved; I follow every development, influence decisions, although this is not always reflected in media headlines.

[Einstein] Are you satisfied with the recent economic decisions? Do you not have any criticism about these decisions?

[Shamir] I believe that the recent policy is generally good. Occasionally decisions have been made that are a compromise between differing trends within the government. However, I accepted these compromises.

[Einstein] Mr Peres, for example, criticized the latest decision to increase the allocation of foreign funds for travelers abroad. What do you think about this issue?

[Shamir] I do not think this is very significant. I do not believe that this regulation can influence our economic situation. I heard the arguments in its favor both from the finance minister and the Bank of Israel. I do not think this issue merits a serious debate.

[Einstein] Sir, you are saying that early elections would harm the economy. What harm would be done to the economy?

[Shamir] We know from our experience what happens during election periods. Even if there are a thousand decisions to prevent election economics, there is no doubt that the various trends within the elections will influence economic moves. One side, for example, will want to prevent a major success by the other side. It is possible that one side will want to show success, even if this

be only momentary and temporary. Everybody will want to achieve popularity in connection with his stands on economic problems, even if he knows that his position is contrary to the economic interests. To a certain extent this can always happen, but this mainly happens during elections, because during elections one forgets the things that are always important: stability, preventing inflation, preserving salaries, etc. On the eve of elections the prime consideration is success at the ballot box. All the other considerations, which are extremely important, are pushed aside. This is what I am afraid of. I believe that given 1 or 1 and 1/2 more years we will be able to become more stable and to withstand the danger of elections better, because our present achievements are still rather fragile and are not solid enough to be unshaken by elections. This is why I am concerned.

[Einstein] What, then, are your expectations in the economic sphere for the next year?

[Shamir] I think that if we pursue our present course we will continue to decrease inflation. Thanks to our increasing stability, we will attain economic growth, and there will be new investments. During my recent trip abroad I observed great interest on the part of economic circles who have heard that there is stability in Israel, and that there is a desire and willingness to sell government-owned companies. These circles are showing interest and are willing to invest, that is, to create new work opportunities for our youngsters and those who want to improve their working conditions and for new immigrants, if they come. Altogether I see before me 1 or 1 and 1/2 years of progress, more stability, of getting closer to our goal of economic independence. I am observing the debates in the U.S. Congress. The aid for us is not in our pockets, and we must take this into consideration. Every improvement in our trade deficit, every step toward more independence is extremely important. It is extremely important to conserve state funds, a thing that will prevent future inflation. I believe we should pursue the course of preserving stability, even if there are no major and attractive one-time achievements.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Prime Minister, I would like to end with a personal question. You belong to the generation that has known the state from its inception. I would like to know if, on our 39th Independence Day, we meet your expectations. By we I mean the State of Israel. I am referring to the social, economic, and political spheres. Is this how you thought the country would look when it was almost 40?

[Shamir] I have to confess that on every Independence Day I feel good. I am happy to see a free, independent Jewish state, which is existing, advancing, and solving its problems despite all the difficulties. I see a young generation that exceeds its predecessors in its talents, capabilities, and dedication. I have every reason in the world to be optimistic. I will not say that I am completely satisfied; one must not be satisfied because nothing is perfect, and we are a far cry from being perfect. We must strive for improvement, for more achievements, for filling in the empty spaces, for correcting faults. However, altogether we have a beautiful and good country, and we have every reason in the world to be happy on our Independence Day.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Prime Minister, thank you and a happy holiday.

[Shamir] Thank you, and a happy Independence Day to you and to all the people of Israel.

Peres: Peace Issue 'Justifies Elections'

TA041755 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says Israel has an understanding with the United States that, if an international conference tried to impose conditions, Israel and the United States would pull out. Peres was speaking in Ashqelon to thousands of Israelis celebrating the holiday. Earlier at the Ben-Gurion Airport airshow reporter Sabra Chartrand spoke to the foreign minister:

[Begin recording] [Peres] I think that, from a Jordanian point of view, it was quite a progress. I mean, they announced themselves in favor of an international conference. They didn't say that this conference will have the power to impose a solution. They have suggested to invite the PLO under three conditions, which are rather similar to the conditions of the United States, namely, to accept 242 and 338, then again to denounce terrorism, then again to be party of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, which as you know, the PLO does not accept.

[Chartrand] Do you believe Israel accepts [indistinct words]?

[Peres] Well, I don't know when you say Israel to whom are you referring. Maybe the Cabinet will be split...

[Chartrand interrupting] The government of Israel?

[Peres] Maybe the government will be divided half and half, and then we shall have to turn to the people.

[Chartrand] Does that mean you would be willing to go for elections?

[Peres] Yes. I think peace is quite an important issue. It justifies elections. [end recording]

Shamir 'Interested' in Meeting With Husayn

TA050854 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew
5 May 87 pp 1, 10

[Report by Roni Shaqed, Orli Azulay-Katz, and Bina Barzel]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is interested in meeting with Jordan's King Husayn to find out his position, in detail, on an international peace conference and negotiations with Israel. Shamir's interest in meeting with Husayn in person could be a sign of a certain change in his position which, until now, has rejected any move that would promote the convening of the international conference. Nevertheless, the prime minister still continues to claim that the conference poses many dangers to Israel. Shamir also says the proposals presented so far are very vague, and they must be examined and studied thoroughly before a decision is made. [passage omitted]

Likud Vows To Block Peres' Conference Moves
 TA050905 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
 5 May 87 pp 1, 8

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] Ari'el — Likud leaders yesterday launched a counter attack against Foreign Minister Peres's moves to arrange an international peace conference and vowed to block him.

"You want the Likud to give you a national umbrella for a conference in which parts of the Land of Israel will be turned over to foreign rule," said Housing Minister David Levi. "We will give you no such umbrella, Mr. Peres."

Levi addressed a rally in support of settlement organized by the Herut movement at the West Bank town of Ari'el. A contingent of MAPAM activists who arrived at Ari'el to protest funding for settlement were assaulted by participants in the rally and were forced to leave under police protection.

Before the rally, Herut youth members led a convoy of some 50 vehicles to a number of neighbouring West Bank settlements. In Qalqilyah the procession moved through the town with horns blaring and lights flashing.

"We don't want early elections, but we will not stand idly by if we are served with an ultimatum," Levi told the cheering crowd of about 3,000 at Ari'el. "We value the government partnership, but the Land of Israel is more dear to us."

Levi said that despite assurances by Peres that an international conference would not be able to impose solutions on Israel, "the fate of the Land of Israel will be determined (at the conference) in conditions of unprecedented difficulty, and under direct and indirect pressure."

He said Peres had worked behind the backs of Likud ministers, and had failed to produce assurances that the Soviet Union would accept Israel's condition for participation in peace talks, and that Jordan would negotiate without the PLO. Israel's withdrawal from the conference if it tried to impose a settlement, would only expose it to "serious pressure and perhaps sanctions," Levi said. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Envoy Warns of 'Frozen' Peace
 TA041928 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
 1700 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Egypt's Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni says peace will be frozen for a long time to come if there is no international conference. Basyuni was talking to reporter David Essing this evening at President Herzog's annual Independence Day reception for the diplomatic corps in Jerusalem:

[Begin recording] [Basyuni] I think that this is a good opportunity to achieve the comprehensive peace through the framework of the international conference, and I hope that we can use this opportunity because, if we lose it, it means that the peace will be frozen for a long time.

[Essing] Is Egypt still insisting that the PLO be a party to the negotiations?

[Basyuni] You know that as a matter of fact the peace with the PLO is more easy than the peace without the PLO. Until now all the Arab leagues...[changing thought]...as you know, there is a decision that the PLO is the only representative of the Palestinian people, so you can't choose with whom you will talk. But the other side can choose and the Palestinians have all the rights to choose their representatives on the international conference.

[Essing] We heard of the surprising cancellation by Jordan's King Husayn, that he was not going to meet with President Mubarak as scheduled earlier this week. Are they going to meet again, or do you have any ideas why the reason was for Husayn canceling the meeting?

[Basyuni] I am not surprised because from the beginning there was no meeting. To ask if there is meeting and there is cancellation for the meeting, from the beginning there is no appointment for this meeting. And don't forget that tomorrow our prime minister and our minister of foreign affairs will be in Jerusalem, in Amman, for the regular meeting between Egypt and Amman. We are in very very good relations. [end recording]

Ambassador Basyuni conveyed Egyptian President Mubarak's greetings to President Herzog on Independence Day.

Jordanian 'Sources': Syria Might Join Conference
 TA050513 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
 5 May 87 pp 1, 2

[Report by Yehuda Litani and Elaine Ruth Fletcher]

[Excerpt] Syria has indicated that it might join Jordan in an international Middle East peace conference — a move that would dramatically improve the chances for convening the meeting, highly placed Jordanian sources have said.

The sources said Syria appears ready to go along with King Husayn's conditions for the conference — conditions set down in a statement released Sunday by the Jordanian Government. Those conditions, which mirror U.S. requirements, call on the peace conference participants to "renounce any acts of violence and terror," and to accept UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Syria's participation could bring Palestinians now hesitant to join a peace conference without the PLO's blessing into the process. Amman has been sorely lacking Palestinian partners for a peace conference since its falling out with the PLO last summer.

Syria has been pushed to soften its stance on a peace conference because of a worsening economic situation, the Jordanian sources said. The economic crisis has created a drastic shortage of foreign currency and has weakened the Syrian military's ability to confront Israel. This, in turn, has prompted Damascus to seek closer ties with Jordan and other Arab states from which Syria is now estranged because she supports Iran in the Gulf war, the sources said.

Jordan, for instance, recently sent Damascus a 50,000-ton emergency shipment of wheat because Syria apparently lacks the foreign currency even to procure wheat from its superpower ally, the Soviet Union. Jordan also has been instrumental in arranging recent meetings, between Syria's President Hafiz al-Asad and Iraq's Saddam Husayn as part of a Syrian-Iraqi rapprochement. [passage omitted]

Press Views International Conference Dispute
TA050757 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0330 GMT 5 May 87

[Review of the morning press editorials]

[Excerpts] *Ha'aretz* says that Likud entrenchment in the position it has adhered to so far would lead to the dissolution of the government and, almost certainly, to early elections. But this would not be the only result. The impression as far as the outside is concerned would be that Israel is refusing to attend an international conference, and not even the Likud could claim that this impression would strengthen our position in the international arena. Mr Peres has pushed the matter so far that he can no longer back down. He must put it to the Cabinet and take the risk of any result its decision entails.

Hatzofe writes that the international conference is not a pressing issue, despite the drama attributed to it by Mr Peres. The question is: Does Mr Peres regard the international conference as a political goal for the sake of peace or as a goal leading to the dissolution of the government and early elections? This is the only issue in whose name the need for new elections can be explained to the public. The paper proposes that a time-out be declared to calm tempers and examine whether or not there really are grounds for a crisis and whether or not the document of understanding is based on genuine understandings or only on future scenarios.

'Al Hamishmar says there is no doubt that, as far as King Husayn is concerned, the monarch made a courageous decision when he decided to make public the agreement achieved with Mr Peres and Mr Rabin in secret talks. If Israel rejects this initiative, the historic opportunity for direct negotiations we have aspired to for years will be missed. We should bear in mind that this is just the beginning of the road, and even if there is agreement on the first opening step, the path to peace is still long and covered with mines. At this stage, however, the paper adds, everything depends on the removal of the first mine — the Likud's opposition, brought about by its fear of peace. [passage omitted]

The Jerusalem Post thinks an international conference might even bring Syria to the negotiating table that King Husayn must insist upon, because he knows that he, too, will have to accept the principle of territorial compromise for peace. That is also the key issue in Israel's moment of truth. [passage omitted]

Poll Reveals Confidence in Coalition Declining
TA030932 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
3 May 87 p 2

[Report by Hanokh and Rafi Smith]

[Excerpts] In the six months since rotation, the public confidence in the national unity government has declined sharply.

This is one of the main findings of the Smith Research Centre poll conducted for *The Jerusalem Post* with a sample of 1,200 Jews during the first nine days of April. Excerpts of the poll were published on Thursday.

In the period of little over a year between August 1986 and September 1987, the general opinion of the public of the success of the government rose steadily — from 35 per cent to 63 per cent who thought the government was "succeeding" or "mainly succeeding."

However, the proportion of those satisfied fell to 47 per cent in the January poll and to 32 per cent in current April poll. [passage omitted]

The data suggest that the latest drop in confidence in the government's actions is closely correlated with the decline in the government's performance in foreign affairs, from 59 per cent to 41 per cent. This in turn is related to the public's dissatisfaction with the handling of the Pollard affair.

It is interesting to note that the original dissatisfaction with the government, between September and January, was connected mainly with the economy. But in the last three months there has been no further erosion in this area. Satisfaction with the handling of defence also remains at a high level.

On the whole, over the past six months, economic and foreign affairs have been in the forefront of public dissatisfaction with the performance of the government, while defence has only declined slightly in the public eye.

On social policy, the government has never been viewed as successful and recent declines have been moderate.

The popularity of Israel's leaders has also suffered erosion over the last half year. Though satisfaction with their performance has declined, Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin continue to get good ratings from the public.

The picture inside the Likud camp has become much more complicated.

Since the rotation in October 1986, most of the key leaders have declined in popularity.

In October 77 per cent thought Shim'on Peres was performing his task well as compared with 62 per cent in the current poll, still a high figure. Yitzhaq Rabin has likewise declined in popularity especially in the last poll. But his performance still satisfies a large majority of the public.

On the Likud side, the main ministers have suffered sharp declines in their performance ratings.

Since September, the eve of the rotation, Yitzhaq Shamir's job rating has declined from 55 per cent to 36 per cent, the lowest he has ever received.

Over the same period, Ari'el Sharon's rating has declined only slightly, from 33 per cent to 31 per cent.

David Levi, on the other hand, increased his popularity from 43 per cent to 49 per cent between May and January; but he suffered a dramatic decline in the April poll to 27 per cent. It would appear that the public reacted severely against his role in the Likud convention. Incidentally, Levi also suffered a decline in popularity after the earlier Herut convention.

One of the interesting findings of the April survey is the rise in popularity of new Likud figures. Minister of Finance Moshe Nisim, against the general trend, increased his popularity to 45 per cent, a gain of 9 per cent over January. Moshe Arens, appearing for the first time in a Smith poll, received a good rating from 42 per cent of those interviewed, a higher relative rating than the three top leaders of the Likud.

Thus, in general, the Likud leaders, except Nisim and Arens, have declined significantly in their job-ratings while the Labour leaders, though also suffering declines, still receive good ratings from a majority of Israeli Jews.

But this does not imply that the majority of the public favours new elections now. That is far from the case, as will be seen in the next article. [passage omitted]

Chief of Staff Urges Isolation of Violent Groups
TA032004 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 3 May 87

[Interview with Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron by military correspondent Moshe Shlonaky — live in studio]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Shlonaky] In about a month it will be the 20th anniversary of the 6-day War and the IDF rule over the territories, Judea, Samaria, and Gaza. Can we expect calm or stone-throwing and breaches of the public order? How do you think we should and may cope with this lack of calm? What is Dan Shomron's formula for calm in the territories?

[Shomron] It would be somewhat boastful to say I have a formula for calm. The real question is if we can keep a level of security the Israeli nation can live with. There will not be absolute calm. This cannot be ensured other than through the investment of inconceivable resources and forces. We must be most cautious not to cross over a fine border where we would be adding additional population groups to that circle of reactions and punishment and reactions and punishment. In my opinion, we must search for a way to leave the majority of the population outside that circle. Of course there will be cases, because we are responsible for security and also for law and order, in which we

will have to use all the measures at our disposal to maintain what we have to.

[Shlonaky] Lt Gen Dan Shomron, can we understand from what you are saying that you are against collective, group punishment in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza?

[Shomron] I cannot say I am against any measure that leads to security, preserving security, and law and order, too. I am only saying that in any reaction by us, we must make every effort to isolate those violent groups, or groups that have an interest in creating tension in the territories, from the really large population that wants to live calm lives.

[Shlonaky] Would you recommend more freedom of action for the settlers? Perhaps establishing a civil guard with weapons?

[Shomron] No, I think people before me have also said that responsibility for security everywhere, Judea, Samaria, and the Gaza District, is that of the security forces, including the IDF. We cannot and must not have individual guards.

[Shlonaky] Over the past few weeks, particularly since you entered office, the IDF has carried out air attacks against terrorist strongholds in the south [of Lebanon] and this generally means the Fatah, and it seems that, nevertheless, the main enemy in the south is the Hizballah. Why does the IDF constantly attack Fatah, the Fatah headquarters, all the time, and does not attack the Hizballah?

[Shomron] I still say the enemy that constantly declares that his direct, immediate enemy is the State of Israel is the terrorists — the Palestinians and their different organizations. The Hizballah are there, but I would not yet call them the main enemy. What the future will bring is something we do not know. For the moment, the terrorists ...[changing thought] and in our latest reactions we have also made a very clear distinction between those inhabitants of the south, southern Lebanon, and the terrorists.

[Shlonaky] Do you believe time is on our side in southern Lebanon? It has already been 2 years since the withdrawal.

[Shomron] It is difficult for me to say. Developments in Lebanon are very unexpected. We are naturally preparing ourselves for any development. Anyone who tries to predict what future developments will be in Lebanon is taking very great risks, in my view.

[Shlonaky] But you support today's military conception?

[Shomron] I support it. It has also proved itself over a long period of time.

[Shlonaky] To conclude, do you anticipate calm in the coming year, along the borders with Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon?

[Shomron] Look, I would say that some of the wars we have had in the past also broke out when we thought this would not happen. If we look rationally at the developments that occur in our area, they do not indicate a war at the gates. I repeat: There is no guarantee that this will indeed not happen. [passage omitted]

'Dabura' Vessels To Patrol Coastal Waters

TA031022 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 3 May p 1

[Report by military correspondent Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] The Israeli Navy has entered into a new age in the sphere of coast patrols and routine security missions, upon the advent of new vessels of the "Dabura" type joining the Navy.

Last week, the Israeli Navy signed a contract for the purchase of the "Dabura" vessels from the Israel Aircraft Industries' Ramat plant. The first ships will reach Navy hands as early as the next few months. The "Dabura" is a relatively small vessel with a high sailing speed. It is easy to operate and is equipped with machine guns and other special fittings.

The new vessel will serve the Navy specifically for routine security operations and for the prevention of penetration of terrorist squads or other hostile elements into Israeli waters.

MK Visits Nicaragua, Meets Tourism Minister

TA031041 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 3 May 87 p 22

[Report by Yehuda Tzur]

[Excerpt] The Nicaraguan Government is asking Israeli farmers to set up agricultural projects in Nicaragua and to help the people solve the country's serious food problems. This was reported yesterday by Knesset Member Haya Grossman in a telephone conversation from Managua, the capital of Nicaragua, where she is a member of a Knesset delegation to an IPU convention there.

Grossman added that in a meeting she held with Tourism Minister Herty Lewites, she was told that Nicaragua is highly interested in obtaining Israeli aid, including assistance from the Jewish people, owing to its serious situation. At the same time, the tourism minister pointed out that Nicaragua condemns the assistance Israel is providing the contras.

The tourism minister reported that the visit of a Nicaraguan agricultural delegation to Israel a few months ago was canceled at the last moment for political reasons. He added that the Nicaraguan Government will soon renovate the old synagogue in Managua. [passage omitted]

PLO Seeks 'Active' Soviet Role on Conference

TA291442 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 26 Apr 87 p 5

[News analysis by Da'ud Kuttab]

[Text] The effort to get an international peace conference off the ground has remained one of the Palestinian leadership's top priorities. Yet, while still maintaining its ties with the U.S. through Egypt, the PLO appears to have shifted its emphasis toward convincing the Soviet Union to press for the conference.

PLO policy is apparently moving toward a direct appeal to the Soviet Union to assume a much more active role in pressing for

the international conference. In this regard the Soviets have a number of advantages over other potential 'sponsors.' The Soviet Union has consistently supported Palestinian national rights, including the Palestinians' right to self-determination; the status of the PLO as sole legitimate representative; and the need for an international conference with participation and authority similar to that envisioned by the PLO.

At the same time, the present Soviet leadership has shown controlled flexibility toward both East-West issues and Israeli demands. The Soviet Union's major success in approaching a nuclear agreement with the U.S. will no doubt pave the way for detente with the West, and for the increased possibility of the Soviet Union's taking a lead in resolving international conflicts.

The PLO's abrogation of the Amman agreement and Fatah's reconciliation with left-wing and radical Palestinian factions has removed any hesitation on the part of the Soviets. After a long absence, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will most certainly visit the Soviet Union now. His major request will be to push for a more active Soviet role in promoting the international conference.

Observers have noted that Soviet support for the international conference was in evidence even before the reconciliation between the Palestinian factions. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's letter to European leaders 2 months ago is said to have been the major force behind the European Community's recent statement calling for an international conference.

The PLO's agreement to recognize the Palestinian Communist Party [PCP] will also help facilitate the PLO's approach to the Soviet Union. The PCP — with the majority of its members, supporters, and leaders in the occupied territories — has previously been excluded on the grounds that it is not a guerrilla organization and does not participate in the armed struggle. Now, however, the PCP will be able to choose 10 PNC members and will have at least one member in the PLO's new executive committee. Having a member of a Moscow-aligned PCP along during 'Arafat's coming visit to the Soviet Union will doubtless provide the Soviets with further incentives to become more actively involved.

While the PLO has high hopes for the removal of the obstacles in its relations with the Soviets, the door to the Americans has not been closed. Although the Amman Agreement has been abrogated, the PLO insists on maintaining its relations with Egypt. The rationale behind this is very simple. While Jordan's ambitions with regard to Palestinian territory pose a problem for Palestinians, Egypt, even before 1967, never aspired to or attempted to gain control of Palestinian land. The Gaza Strip continued to be called Palestine, and Egypt made no attempt to annex it.

With regard to the U.S., Egypt certainly has more clout than Jordan does. Egypt plays an important strategic role in U.S. Middle East policy, while Jordan cannot even buy weapons from the U.S.

How successful the Soviets will be in actually launching the proposed international conference remains to be seen. What the

PLO seems convinced of, however, is that the Soviets have a better chance of getting them where they want to be than the Jordanians or the Reagan administration ever did.

AL-FAJR Views Developments After PNC Session
TA011921 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 1 May 87 p 1

[Editorial: "Transitory Phenomena and Established Facts"]

[Text] Two prominent political phenomena began to impose their propaganda presence over the entire region immediately after the conclusion of the 18th PNC meetings in Algiers 5 days ago.

The first phenomenon was the closure of the gates of Arab capitals from Amman to Cairo, Rabat, Damascus, and perhaps Tripoli, in the face of the PLO.

The second phenomenon has been the momentum in the talk about the international conference or an international umbrella for direct Arab-Israeli negotiations, the talk about a change in the traditional U.S. position toward this conference umbrella, and the immense commotion by news agencies about the Alignment-Likud disagreement in this regard and the chances of early elections in Israel.

The connection between the two phenomena is very clear: It simply means that numerous parties have agreed to bypass the PLO in any potential political solution to the Palestinian problem, and to rush as fast as possible to seize the "historical opportunity" -- according to the U.S. interpretation in the recent message by Ronald Reagan to Yitzhak Shamir -- to convene the

international conference or the international umbrella without PLO participation and with certain Arab blessing.

This meaning, however, produced by the connection of the aforementioned phenomena, ignores numerous realities both on the regional and international levels.

On one hand, the question arises about the role of the Soviet Union, one of the two superpowers. This role has no connection with all this propaganda uproar. Is it reasonable for any party to believe that any solution is possible in the Middle East without the Soviet Union's participation, consent, and support?

On the other hand, a question arises about the alleged U.S. role in the current stage. It is a role which Israel is trying to manipulate in its coming or in the already launched election campaign. Will the United States really jump into the most perilous spot in the entire world at the expense of international harmony or at the very least harmony with the Soviet Union?

Thirdly, a question arises about the role of the EEC, the non-aligned countries, the Islamic Conference countries, and so on. This role currently contradicts the line being pursued by the Israeli information campaign and that of some Arab capitals as well.

Naturally, for all these reasons all observers attach great importance to the Palestinian position represented by the PLO. Any disregard for this position will in fact constitute a disregard of any reasonable chance that might lead to a political solution, under any condition and in any form, in the region.

Communique Issued on Benguela Railroad Summit
AB021121 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0800 GMT 1 May 87

[Joint communique issued in Lusaka on 30 April following the summit meeting of the Zairian, Zambian, and Angolan heads of state on the rehabilitation of the Benguela Railroad]

[Text] Kinshasa, 1 May (AZAP) — 1. The conference of heads of state on the rehabilitation of the Benguela Railroad took place in Lusaka, Zambia on Thursday, 30 April 1987.

2. Participating in this conference were Their Excellencies President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of the People's Republic of Angola; President Mobutu Sese Seko of the Republic of Zaire; and President Kenneth David Kaunda of the Republic of Zambia.

3. The meeting of the heads of state was designed to examine ways of rehabilitating the Benguela line in accordance with decisions made in Luanda on 16 April 1987.

4. The heads of state discussed the need to find alternate access routes for southern African countries, particularly if South Africa should decide to implement sanctions against them.

5. They placed special emphasis on the need to create new companies and strengthen existing ones. To this end, the heads of state signed a statement of intent on the rehabilitation of the Benguela Railroad.

6. The participants also called on all national institutions in the countries concerned to mobilize the necessary funds for the line's rehabilitation.

7. The conferees reiterated their appeal to the international community to provide all possible assistance in efforts to rehabilitate this strategic route.

8. The heads of state took the opportunity to examine political developments in southern Africa. They voiced their concern over events in South Africa and condemned the growing repression by the racist regime of innocent people under the apartheid system. They also pointed out that the continued imposition of the state of emergency to defend apartheid is raising tension in South Africa. They condemned the severe press censorship and the inhuman detention of innocent and defenseless persons, including children, as well as all sorts of brutality perpetrated by the minority racist regime. In this regard, they sent an urgent appeal to the racist regime to dismantle apartheid and put an end to the state of emergency, lift press censorship, allow the ANC and other political organizations to operate, release Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners, and lastly, initiate dialogue with the true representatives of the oppressed people for the establishment of a fair, democratic, and representative government.

9. The heads of state protested the recent violation of Zambia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, the murder of innocent civilians, and the destruction of their property by the racist South African Army. They strongly condemned this barbaric act against a peaceful country.

10. The conferees appealed to the international community to give aid and support to all states in the region to help them resist South Africa's unjustified aggression.

11. Finally, the participants called on the international community to increase its assistance to liberation movements in South Africa and Namibia in their just fight against apartheid and South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia.

12. The heads of state expressed their thanks and gratitude to the government and people of the Republic of Zambia for the warm hospitality accorded them during their stay in the country.

ALGERIA

Tripartite Summit Held in Border Village

Bendjedid, Fahd Leave Oran

LD041525 Algiers APS in Arabic 1445 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Oran 4 May (APS) — In the context of the visit to Oran paid by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, sovereign of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and custodian of the two holy mosques, Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the FLN, today left for the Colonel Lotfi Agricultural Village, situated on the Algerian-Moroccan border, where the tripartite Algerian-Moroccan-Saudi summit has opened. He was accompanied by the Saudi sovereign.

This meeting, which brings together President Chadli Bendjedid and the sovereigns Fahd and Hassan II, focuses on the Western Sahara conflict, which broke out more than 12 years ago between the Moroccan Kingdom and the Saharan Democratic Republic.

Two Rounds of Talks Held

LD042127 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 May 87

[Excerpts] Today a tripartite meeting was held between His Majesty King Hassan II, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, and King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, at a village on the Moroccan-Algerian border. For more details we contact the radio mission:

[Unidentified reporter] In a village on the Moroccan-Algerian border today, a summit meeting was held between His Majesty King Hassan II, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, and King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. [passage omitted]

The first round of talks commenced at 1300, and the second round of talks lasted from 1530 until 1630.

His Majesty King Hassan II returned to Oujda accompanied by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. [passage omitted]

SPA on 'Second Summit'

LD042105 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1930 GMT 4 May 87

[Excerpts] Colonel Lotfi Agricultural Village, 4 May (SPA) — This evening at Colonel Lotfi Agricultural Village, on the Algerian-Moroccan border, a second summit conference was held between King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques; His Majesty King Hassan I Morocco, and President Chadli Bendjedid. [passage omitted]

Following the meeting Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid left the meeting place and headed for Oran. He was seen off by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques; King Hassan II of Morocco, His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed ibn al-Hasan, crown prince of the Moroccan Kingdom, and senior officials.

Afterward King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and his host His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco left for the Moroccan city of Oujda.

Border Summit Concludes

LD041845 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] The tripartite summit that brought together President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the party, Moroccan King Hassan II; and King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, was concluded at noon today at the Colonel Lotfi Agricultural Village on the Algerian-Moroccan border.

An earlier meeting was held between President Chadli Bendjedid and the two kings, Hassan II and Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, which was followed by a second meeting. Their talks dealt with the current conflict between Morocco and the SDAR.

This evening King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and custodian of the two holy mosques, left Algeria following his 24-hour visit. King Fahd was seen off at Houari Boumediene International Airport by President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and general secretary of the party.

Communique Issued

LD042124 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2044 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Colonel Lotfi Town on the Moroccan-Algerian border, 4 May (SPA) — After today's tripartite summit meeting held on the Algerian-Moroccan border between King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria, and His Majesty King Hassan II of sister Morocco, a joint communique was issued. The text reads as follows:

In the name of God the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Within the context of the efforts exerted by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques and monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco; and His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and party secretary general, met in the presence of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, on the Moroccan-Algerian border on Monday, 4 May 1987.

His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid and His Majesty King Hassan II agreed to continue contacts between the two sister countries with the aim of solving existing problems. His majesty the king of Morocco and his excellency the president of Algeria expressed their gratitude for and deep appreciation of the noble efforts exerted by the custodian of the two holy mosques for arranging the meeting.

APS Comments on Summit

LD051041 Algiers APS in Arabic 0825 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] Algiers, 5 May (APS) — King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques and sovereign of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, has met in Oran with President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the FLN.

This meeting extended to a tripartite summit which was held on the Algerian-Moroccan border, and which brought together President Chadli Bendjedid and the Moroccan and Saudi monarchs.

This summit comes within the general context of the efforts being made to end Arab divisions, particularly the fragmentation of brothers which the Arab peoples have suffered for a long time. Thus, the initiative of the Saudi sovereign, which he made in the name of peace for Western Sahara and consequently in the name of peace for all the countries of the Arab Maghreb, cannot find a better reception anywhere than in Algeria, which considers peace one of the permanent aims and one of the main concerns.

The tripartite summit was a fresh opportunity for President Chadli Bendjedid to clearly express the well-known Algerian (attitude) toward the Western Sahara conflict.

Algeria did not have the intention at any time during this summit of negotiating, adopting a resolution, or making a decision on behalf of others — never! And it could not have possibly been any other way.

Algeria, which has refused during the various stages of its history others' attempts to usurp its voice or to speak of its destiny on its behalf, would naturally respect only this absolute right of the Saharan people's representatives to negotiate and make the decision for themselves. In addition to this, a people who have been struggling for more than 12 years have gained this legitimate and inalienable right, along with the other rights that have been consolidated by the recognition of 70 states.

After this clarification, the tripartite summit was, as far as the president of the Republic is concerned, a new opportunity to present the conflict existing in the Western Sahara as well as the ways and means likely to solve it. These means have crystallized through the large consensus which came from the OAU, the Nonaligned Movement, and the United Nations. The Western Sahara conflict falls within the context of the decolonization process which should be completed. This conflict has also confirmed an undeniable national reality and an international one which cannot be altered. This conflict will find its sole solution only by entering — and this is unavoidable — brave and sincere negotiations between those who are fighting — i.e., the Moroccans and the Saharans.

On the basis of all these affirmations, Algeria was and is still motivated by the firm conviction of the futility of any military choice in solving the conflict existing in the Western Sahara. All the political and field data have proved with all clarity that the path of negotiations is the one that will lead to effective and lasting peace. With these convictions and with this spirit, Algeria

went to the tripartite summit. In this spirit the Algerian-Moroccan summit of February 1983 is also presented, with ideas which were explained on the procedural questions in a proposal submitted in February 1985. The entire endeavor was an honest attempt to take part in bringing the Moroccan and the Saharan views and stances closer together, with serious interest in preparing a possible base for a vital accord and conciliation between the two peoples and for the peoples of the Arab Maghreb as a whole.

The good offices of both the chairman of the OAU and the UN secretary general aim at the same objectives, and Algeria encourages and supports them.

Through its participation in the tripartite summit, Algeria was keen to give these efforts a fresh breath with the goal of reaching an acceptable outcome.

The tripartite summit was concluded with a salutation of merit for the Saudi monarch and with the determination not to miss any future opportunity to hold dialogue, as long as this determination is governed by the conditions and expectations for a final and just settlement of the Western Saharan conflict which takes into consideration the unquestionable reality: namely, the patriotic motive and the Saharan international reality.

Algeria has never abandoned its duty in this regard and never will, in the name of peace and unity of the Arab Maghreb and in the name of justice and right for all of its peoples.

Polisario 'Skeptical'

LD041648 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 4 May 87

[Excerpt] Our correspondent (Carmen Baader) reports that Mohammad Sidati, the Polisario Front official for Europe, made a statement this morning concerning the Oujda meeting between Morocco's King Hassan II and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

[Begin recording] [Sidati] I remain skeptical since Morocco is at this moment building walls, and the war extends to the gates of Mauritania. In addition, Morocco is seeking to circumvent UN and OAU resolutions. The conversations, which began in New York, are aimed at bringing the sides together in one way or another, or at least to lead to the peace plan's application as provided in the UN and OAU resolutions. Nothing came from these because of Morocco's game, which consists of trying to appear to cede while altering nothing. Morocco remains intransigent. If pushed, I might say that the UN process could be upset at any moment.

[[Baader]] As far as you know, did France play a role in the holding of the Oujda summit.

[Sidati] I think yes, in the sense that so far France has been on the same wavelength — at least if one looks at the statements which have been made by a certain number of French officials — as Saudi Arabia and Morocco. Thus, I would say that for the moment it [France] seems to have had something to do with this meeting. [end recording]

Polisario Backs UN Peace Plan*LD041649 Kuwait KUNA in English 1433 GMT 4 May 87*

[Excerpt] Paris, May 4 (KUNA) — The Polisario Front, which is fighting Morocco for independence of the Western Sahara, reiterated today its "attachment to the peace plan for Western Sahara as defined by the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). [quotation marks as received]

The resolutions adopted by the U.N. and the OAU call for direct talks between the Polisario Front and Morocco for the holding of a referendum on self-determination in Western Sahara.

In a communique released in Paris, the representative of the Polisario Front in Europe, Mohammed Sidati, accused Morocco of not sharing the same view and of seeking a military option to resolve the Western Sahara conflict. [passage omitted]

LIBYA**Al-Qadhafi Receives Guadeloupe Liberation Envoy***LD021532 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 May 87*

[Text] Tripoli, 2 May — The brother leader of the revolution has received the coordinator of the Popular Union for the Liberation of Guadeloupe [PULG], who expounded to him the sufferings of the Guadeloupe people due to the French colonization of their country.

The coordinator of the PULG asked the brother leader to support and bolster the cause of the Guadeloupe people by supporting it [the PULG] in international organizations and conferences.

Al-Qadhafi Receives Reunion Liberation Official*LD041315 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 May 87*

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received the secretary general of the Liberation Movement of Reunion [MLR], who has explained the suffering of the Reunionese people due to the French colonization of its [Reunion's] territories.

The secretary general of the Reunion movement conveyed to the brother leader of the revolution a tormenting picture of the dreadful danger resulting from the French nuclear tests carried out on Pacific Ocean and Indian Ocean islands. He said the masses on these islands live in terror and are threatened with extermination due to the great number of nuclear tests carried out by French colonialism. He also informed the brother leader that France has carried out more than 60 nuclear tests on one of the islands situated in the ocean and that this has led to the sinking of this island.

The MLR secretary general asked the brother leader of the revolution to stimulate support by world states and to warn them at all international meetings against the permanent danger threatening these islands due to the arrogance of French colonialism and the fact that it [France] continues to carry out nuclear tests.

JANA Editor Calls Syrian-Iraqi Unity 'Natural'*LD050811 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 5 May 87*

[Text] Tripoli, 5 May (JANA) — News agencies have discussed summit meetings held between President Hafiz al-Asad and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn near the Syrian-Iraqi border during the past week.

The JANA Arab affairs editor has commented on this news by stating: If the reports on these meetings between Iraq and Syria are confirmed, we will be pleased, for we dream of the reconstruction of the northern front following the collapse of the southern front — through Egypt's recognition of the Zionist enemy and the latter's transfer of its military weight to the northern front, where there is only Syria steadfast with the Lebanese national movement and the Palestinian resistance.

The editor said that unity between Syria and Iraq is natural and we need it as much as can be, under these circumstances where the Arab nation is facing attack from all fronts to an unprecedented extent in modern history and at a time when meetings between brothers have become a sin while meetings with the enemy are permitted.

SUDAN**Official Says Defense Pact With Egypt in Effect***NC301858 Cairo MENA in English 1755 GMT 30 Apr 87*

[Text] Khartoum, April 30 (MENA) — Member of the Sovereignty Council Muhammad al-Hasan 'Abdallah Yasin voiced thanks and appreciation of the role assumed by Egypt and by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in achieving good neighbourhood with the Sudan.

In a statement to MENA correspondent here, Yasin said the Egyptian-Sudanese joint defence agreement is still in effect.

Yasin added that the Sudanese Government is about to form committees to be in charge of implementing the Charter of Fraternity recently signed by Egypt and the Sudan.

He said he conferred with officials in Egypt on setting a joint plan to achieve food security in both countries.

The Sudan will provide Egypt with wheat, maize and animal wealth while Egypt will provide the Sudan with industrial products, he said.

In this way bilateral trade will rise up to one billion dollars per year, he added.

Yasin said he would head for Cairo on Monday next on a two-week private visit to Cairo.

Referring to the Sudan's mediation in the Chadian-Libyan dispute, Yasin said it was not encouraging, adding that the Libyan troops withdrew from the Sudan with all their heavy weaponry.

The remnants of these troops in Darfur Province cause armed plunder, he said.

He added however that the Sudanese Police and Army are staging combing operations to expel the Libyan troops out of the country.

State Council's Al-Din Meets Ethiopian Minister
JN041748 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Khartoum, May 4 (SUNA) — Member of State Council Dr Ali Hasan Taj al-Din upon his meeting with Ethiopian

minister of information [Gedle-Giorgis Felleke] said that such a visit could improve good neighbourliness between Ethiopia and Sudan.

On the other hand the Ethiopian minister hailed the initiative announced by the Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al- Mahdi to establish peaceful relations with Ethiopia and the necessity of a summit conference on the occasion of the inauguration of the new Ethiopian Constitution.

Moreover, minister of industry, Mubarak 'Abdallah al- Fadil in his meeting with the Ethiopian minister stressed the good neighbourliness policy and non-interference in each country's affairs.

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Delivers May Day Speech in Addis Ababa
EA020030 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic
 0617 GMT 1 May 87

[May Day address by Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the WPE Central Committee and PMAC chairman, at Revolution Square in Addis Ababa — live]

[Text] Dear workers, farmers, and all members of our revolutionary forces who are deployed on all fronts in defense of our motherland's borders; honorable guests and comrades:

We attach special significance to this day, which marks the struggle of the workers of the world and which signals bright hope, as it falls on the eve of the establishment of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia [PDRE], through which the broad masses of Ethiopia will directly consolidate political power by deciding their own destiny.

As you know, our revolution has given prime attention to securing full supremacy of the working people. It has done so ever since we started to follow the new path. We decided on this after we dismantled the oppressive and inhuman feudal regime and began to make our wishes for freedom, justice, and equality a reality. The struggle we have been waging and the results achieved in previous years in pursuing this great victory have enabled us to reach the present stage. The participation of people in the work carried out at various levels on the formation of the PDRE not only showed the level of consciousness reached by our people but also clearly demonstrated the democratic situation which we have attained through our revolution.

However, complex struggle and unreserved popular and collective efforts will be required if we are to reach our ultimate goals. Much more remains to be done. Nevertheless, the results attained at various levels are prerequisites for the development of our country. It is unquestionable that the fulfillment of these decisive objectives is a source of great pride to all citizens who wish to see the supremacy of the people.

Dear compatriots, we are now in the last chapter of fully achieving our noble objective of making the people decide their own destiny and become their own administrators through a struggle which has no parallel in the history of our country. Accordingly, all our people have been called upon to participate democratically in the election of representatives to the National Assembly, which is the highest expression of people's power. They have been asked to use their rights, enshrined in the proclamation, to nominate those who win respect and acceptance from the working people, who are trusted by the people and are capable of discharging the responsibilities vested in them, and to elect them. These are activities which require unreserved efforts by all citizens. It is the people themselves who are the basis of the PDRE, in which the working people will be the direct owners of power. The task of establishing a popular system will not be successful without popular participation. The discussion of the draft constitution and referendum by the working people was completed with proud results. They now have the responsibility

of conscientiously evaluating the revolutionary and popular criteria for pinpointing the right representatives and establishing a reliable National Assembly. The success of the people's republic that we are going to establish will be measured by its ability to elevate our country to a higher stage of development by reflecting and satisfying the interests of the people. The people's republic for which we have waged a protracted struggle and made great sacrifices will be a place where the Ethiopian people will directly discuss and implement their development needs. It should, therefore, not be seen in isolation from popular objectives and participation.

As you know, the struggle to make our dear and historic country a place where its citizens live in equality and respect, free from backwardness, is a struggle to be masters of total and real liberty. We have registered great victories that have satisfied us and the forces which stand for the well-being of the people. However, much more remains to be achieved. Our aim is to utilize our knowledge and strength, to make proper use of our country's natural resources, to cooperate on an equal basis with others for our mutual benefit, to consolidate this in accordance with the joint objectives of proletarian internationalism, to be able to look after ourselves, to do everything possible for the well-being of humanity and, therefore, to discharge our international responsibilities properly.

Since our struggle is to totally liberate our country from all sorts of shortages and problems, the establishment of the republic is being given special attention because of the decisive contribution it will make to this end. In other words, the establishment of the republic will enable the people to assume direct power. Moreover, the unstinting reconstruction efforts they make will be based on the great and historic victory they will achieve.

What do these efforts, particularly in the economic sphere, look like? What results have been attained? What should be done in the future? These will be the basic questions. As we have said repeatedly, the basis of our economic development, because of the objective conditions in our country, is agriculture. Because of the backwardness of our country, it is clear that we have been totally dependent on nature. Because of this we could not achieve continuous progress. We have been victims of drought and famine repeatedly because of the fluctuations of the climate.

We must make preparations to deal with the problems we face in this connection. The sixth regular session of the Central Committee of our party, which was held recently, made an in-depth assessment of the general situation of our economy. It pointed out that the situation has clearly improved, particularly in agriculture. Certain areas in the north, the eastern lowlands — in fact, most parts of the country — have not received adequate rain. They are, therefore, receiving various supplements.

We believe that better results can be achieved by carrying out agricultural activities in a coordinated manner. When we talk about agriculture, it is not only a question of acquiring enough food and industrial raw materials. The main issue that should receive equal consideration is the situation of the peasantry. The horrible situation in which Ethiopian peasants lived for centuries cannot be forgotten. The prime objective of our revolution was,

therefore, to liberate the rural people who constitute about 85 percent of our population. As a result of great sacrifices, the Ethiopian peasantry is escaping the horrible situation it lived in during the prerevolutionary period. It has become the master of its rights. The peasants of revolutionary Ethiopia are no longer tenants tied to their feudal masters; they are free members of our society, free citizens who have the opportunity to improve their lives and reconstruct the country. Using the rights they have acquired, the peasants are reorganizing the production system and their living conditions; they are being regrouped in villages so that they can produce in a better way and benefit from modern techniques.

Villagization is part and parcel of a great development strategy that will enable us to completely change the backwardness of Ethiopia. Construction activities will continue in a coordinated manner. Villagization is a development bridge that creates the right conditions for the proper utilization and development of land and other natural resources. It bridges the gap between rural and urban life; it connects agriculture with industry and the peasant with the worker. It should therefore be encouraged. Development cannot be achieved in a week. It is the result of various complex struggles. So, villagization will only secure the necessary services and results if continuous and coordinated efforts are made. The number of villagers who have started to work hard to satisfy their needs is increasing dramatically.

It has to be noted at this juncture that we are not dreamers who believe that noble results can be achieved without any work or problems — through miracles.

In the same way that they have always bitterly attacked all our positive efforts, those who oppose our development plans have made our villagization program a target of their propaganda, alleging that it is a violation of human rights. The people clearly understand why these self-appointed watchdogs of human rights, the policemen and judges of the world, unjustifiably attack other countries that have decided to determine their own destiny, and use propaganda and various other means against them. It is very amusing that these imperialist forces that try to snuff out our sovereignty and our people's basic right to self-determination, that are closely linked to the racist apartheid regime of South Africa, and that are its open advocates in international forums, try to present themselves as advocates of human rights.

The decisive factor is not their interference in the internal affairs of other countries and peoples, their desire to swindle them in pursuit of their aims and to subjugate them permanently, but the consciousness of the targeted people and the people's concern for their rights. The principal tool of the forces of exploitation is the lack of awareness on the part of the people and misleading propaganda. On the other hand, their greatest fear is the people's awareness and their correct understanding of deceptive propaganda. In this respect, the broad masses of Ethiopia are one of the peoples who have understood the true path of independence and who have made a decisive choice.

Since the start of our revolution, our people have chosen to make sacrifices rather than retreat from the correct path. They have struggled firmly without turning their backs on their true goal of freedom. We are all quite well aware of what the farmer was told

when the historic measure that made him the owner of the land was taken. It was being said that the farmer himself would oppose this measure. We know what the farmers' response was. We all know what the people were being told when our country was being invaded — that the people would not defend our country from invasion. We know what the people's response was.

In general, everyone knows of the efforts made by our enemies to obstruct all our attempts to take steps beneficial to the country and the workers. Everyone knows the embarrassment these people suffered at the hands of the masses.

Even today we will overcome the obstacles that are placed in our way in the form of propaganda and in various other forms, intended to hinder the implementation of our development plans. We will continue with our steps, as they are the steps of a people following a historic path. We are absolutely certain they will reach their goal.

One major proof that the goals of our struggle will be realized is the fact that among the tasks we have accomplished recently, over 5,000, I repeat, over 5,000 villages, not houses, have been constructed in less than a year, and correspondingly, the preparation of means of delivering various services has been completed. The efforts embarked upon in urban areas to enable workers to occupy residences compatible with the country's ability and level of development, and efforts to provide workers with full economic and social services will be intensified. Whatever our enemies and their collaborators say, if we work hard by correctly analyzing our current position, and remain faithful to our aims, our country's backwardness and problems are temporary and can be totally eradicated.

It is known that the principal springboard of our development is agriculture. However, as indicated by factual data based on recent research, the condition of our country's mineral resources generates hope. As has been stated previously on other occasions, it is believed that when iron, gold, gas, and numerous other minerals are properly exploited with capital backing, they can greatly assist our development. It is becoming increasingly clear that we possess enough natural resources and manpower to be free of backwardness. The total area of our country and the natural resources it contains can adequately accommodate 100 million people. The important fact is to correctly coordinate and mobilize the natural resources and manpower in a manner that can bring about social benefits.

Therefore, let us all work and work again without hesitation and with national and revolutionary fervor. We cannot afford to be lax in the historic task of nation building we have embarked upon or in dealing with our temporary social and economic problems. The main solution to alleviating our problems is not only [words indistinct] the results achieved. Rather, it is the building of our economic capabilities and the expansion of the economic spheres through love for the country and our compatriots. Each one of us should not say, What has been done for us? but rather, What have we done?

One of the significant social problems evident today is that not all our citizens are in occupations that enable them to cope with their individual lives while at the same time contributing their

share to national development. The principal reason behind unemployment is the lack of development in our economy. The other reason is that appropriate efforts have not been made from all sources in line with our ability and our country's objective situation. Today in particular, our principal guarantee is the agricultural sector of the economy, and insufficient efforts are being made to benefit from this sector.

The desire for office work and urban life will not get us anywhere, and, in fact, such an orientation would be inviting problems on top of problems. If industry is not supported by produce from the agricultural and other spheres of the economy, present trends indicate that it cannot be an area for the deployment of additional manpower. In brief, there are no people who have progressed on the correct and secure path of development without making the necessary efforts, starting from one objective economic situation. Therefore, we must understand this truth correctly and implement an appropriate deployment of our workforce, starting with the training of manpower, and strengthening our efforts as allowed by the objective situation. We must strive harder in this spirit and at least get a quick solution to the riddle of starvation in some sectors of our society, starvation which persists even though we have sufficient arable land, rivers, and adequate manpower.

Working people of Ethiopia, our goal is the same basic goal of the people — justice and prosperity. To reach this goal, one of our sincere desires, like all other people, is peace.

Our relations with many countries are being favorably strengthened. Accordingly, we will step up and continue our efforts for additional fruitful results. We will not hesitate to have friendly relations with all those who approach us peacefully and who are willing to solve all our problems peacefully. Unless war is the only way of protecting our sovereignty, we are not warmongers who believe only in force, as our enemies allege. In fact, as we have repeatedly pointed out, our genuine desire is for development and growth, which is totally incompatible with the disturbances caused by war. Therefore, we will never refrain from making our contribution to averting war and bringing about the reign of peace together with those who, like us, desire understanding and mutual well-being on a continental and global scale. As our stand is the stand of international workers, as well as that of all humanitarian and democratic forces, it is certain that our position will yield increasingly positive results.

Our message to the workers, farmers, intelligentsia, members of our revolutionary forces, and all the working people, from this great forum in which the celebrations of the international workers are being observed today, is: Let us untiringly strengthen our efforts to accelerate our development, preserve peace, and bring about closer relations and cooperation between people for mutual benefit. In this respect, we say: Let us strengthen our participation in all spheres for the successful establishment of the PDRE, as this is vital to the success of all our efforts. Peace and our struggle for development will continue. May proletarian internationalism flourish. We will establish the PDRE. We will win. Thank you. [applause]

Rebel Radio Gives Details of Military Operations

(Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 3 May 87

[Excerpts] Akale Guzay — Sappers of the People's Army have driven off enemy troops deployed between Kenata and Hadish Adi in (Fibrer) District. During an attack on 1 May, our patriots killed two and wounded eight enemy soldiers and captured a gun. [passage indistinct]

In northern (Denkez), fighter aircraft of the fascist Dergue regime brutally bombed civilians in (Asa Ila), killing 2 and wounding 15 of our compatriots. In the bombing, carried out on 29 April by WPE aircraft, Muhammad Ali Ilama, 65 years old, and Sadiyyah Muhammad Ali, 55, were killed. [passage omitted]

In Barca, the heroic sappers of our People's Army [words indistinct] in 5 minutes in (Embaya) in Haykota area. In the attack, which was launched on 1 May, our patriots killed 6 enemy soldiers and captured a radio communications set, 50 [words indistinct], 50 Brens, 3 Kalashnikovs, and large quantities of ammunition and grenades, which they appropriated for the People's Army.

KENYA

President Moi Delivers May Day Speech in Nairobi

EA021332 Nairobi Domestic Service in Swahili 0936 GMT 1 May 87

[Speech by President Daniel arap Moi on the occasion of May Day, delivered at Uhuru Park, Nairobi — live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] This is our country. Each person, each leader, including church leaders, has a moral responsibility to protect the dignity and image of our country. No one is excluded. No one is excluded. And, therefore, let all of us protect the image of our country and ensure that we cooperate.

Brothers, sisters, and children: As you are all aware, if I had been the kind of person who wanted to [word indistinct] human rights, how many people would I have imprisoned when I came to power? In spite of this, I am continually pestered about human rights. Do you want me to apply justice against those who wronged the people, those who exploited the people? Why should anybody continually pester me about human rights? My wish is this: I do not want my name to be used by anybody to intimidate any citizen by alleging that the president has said either this or that. I am directing the police to arrest any person found doing this.

This also applies to civil servants, wherever they are stationed. Do not be given instructions by anyone. Instructions come from the officer above you according to our system of government. There are no instructions from the side. If a politician becomes a failure, leave him alone. Let him perish alone and leave the people to prosper so that our country can remain peaceful. [passage omitted]

I am happy that COTU [Central Organization of Trade Unions] has resolved to help our fellow workers in South Africa. The people of that country are faced with enormous problems. The workers are being killed. Recently six people were hanged. [Words indistinct] everywhere. I agree with the resolution that every worker should contribute 5 shillings. I wish to add that this should apply to all and not to COTU alone; everybody in Kenya. I will also contribute, although I will not contribute 5 shillings. The vice president, ministers, MP's, and everybody else should contribute. I give you 2 weeks. Today is 1 May and the deadline should be on 14 May. Therefore, collect all the money and bring it. [passage omitted]

I suggest that a quarter of the total contributions should go to Namibia, while three quarters should go to the workers of South Africa. I believe that if we are serious, we are capable of contributing enough money.

During our last Republic Day celebrations, we had Oliver Tambo with us. Today we have with us my friend Sam Nujoma. [applause] He and I have met on many occasions. We were in India together, and while there we met the Australian prime minister, with whom we discussed Nujoma's policies. His stand is that when he becomes Namibia's leader, investors will be welcome. No one will be expelled. But the big-headed Boers do not understand this. Therefore, we are with Sam Nujoma and we will assist him until Namibia gains its independence.

As you are all aware, the people of Kenya do not go around mumbling. The University of Nairobi assisted in training young men from Zimbabwe, Botswana, and from the entire southern African region. We also have Namibian students whom we are assisting now. Kenya, therefore, has done a lot to assist our brothers and sisters in southern Africa. We will continue to do so. Therefore, we wish Sam Nujoma success in the war that he is currently engaged in. We are with him. [passage omitted]

As you are also aware, our brothers and sisters in Somalia are facing severe drought. Five hundred people have already died. I hope that the government will try to assist by providing several bags. [as heard] We will announce this later. These bags will be used to help our neighbors overcome the problems facing them. God has blessed us with enough food and I think at present we have enough stock to last us up to a year. We also hope that, if God gives us more rain, we shall have even more food. [passage omitted]

UGANDA

Prime Minister Reads Museveni May Day Speech
LD022123 Kampala Domestic Service in English
 0842 GMT 1 May 87

[Speech by President Yoweri Museveni read by Prime Minister Samson Kisekka on 1 May at Kololo Airstrip — live]

[Excerpts] Ladies and gentlemen: His excellency the president has been unable to come to attend this function and he has asked me to come and read his speech, which I am going to do right now.

It is a pleasure once more to join other countries throughout the world in celebrating Labor Day. This is the day recognized by the majority of nations as a day of dedication to the toiling masses who keep the wheels of our national economy moving. The NRM [National Resistance Movement] government is fully aware of the role of labor in national development and social progress. It is government's policy, therefore, that this important resource — labor — should be developed, mobilized, and effectively utilized for gainful and productive employment. To achieve this objective, the government will continue to develop Ugandans in the vital technical skills. This is why a comprehensive manpower survey is currently under way to determine the nation's manpower position. The results of this survey, it is hoped, will help government in rationalizing its plans and directing labor appropriately and in accordance with the Lagos plan of action and the African priority program for economic recovery.

One of the cornerstones of the NRM government's economic policy is the realization of the abundant wealth that Africa, and Uganda in particular, has at its disposal. [Words indistinct] has partly been and continues to be the result of lack of technical skill with which to mobilize the material resources available for the development of our country. Government will spare no effort in mobilizing the abundant human resources we have, both in urban and rural areas, with the aim of molding them into a development input and machinery.

To this end the technical institutions of government, such as the vocational training institutes, will continue to receive serious government attention. Already through some of them rural youth are being turned into self-employed job creators. [passage omitted] It is also gratifying to note that the nongovernment organizations like churches have taken an interest in this field. Government wishes to express its appreciation and encouragement to them to continue with this noble task. [passage omitted]

Government would like to strengthen the position and role of these institutions and will pay special attention to the need to improve conditions in them. Government will encourage them, for example, to sell the products of their training, engage in repairs for payment, and carry out other activities which can bring them money which they could share with the institutes. [passage omitted]

Government views training as a right and not as a privilege of a worker and is considering imposing a training levy on certain categories of employers. The Lagos plan of action calls for the full mobilization and the effective utilization of the labor force for national development and social progress as a major [word indistinct]. Government undertakes to work towards this realization through the introduction of various measures, such as the one above, to encourage full mobilization. Government further undertakes to mobilize labor through the application of the Special Public Works Program, commonly known as SPWP.

Here I wish to express thanks to the UNDP [UN Development Program] and the ILO in collaboration with the WFP [World Food Program], who have been instrumental in funding and executing the SPWP. Through this program it is hoped to be able to mobilize the rural population for the rehabilitation of the

(?rural) economic and social infrastructures. A start has been made in Karamoja, Sebei, and now in Luwero. [passage omitted]

I now want to say a few things about the workers' organization. Since we came to power, our government has (?lifted) the restrictions and political (?bondage) that have characterized the past regimes. Workers have been asked to exercise their full democratic rights and to elect leaders of their choice. By July 1986 all except for one union, for some reason, had elected their leaders in a democratic way. [passage omitted]

Government appeals to union workers to educate the workers on their rights, privileges, and at the same time on how to achieve these rights and privileges. The demand for the dismissal or suspension of government employees and members of management is irregular. Although workers can and must continue in [word indistinct] management in all respects, they can only be effective when the procedures established by law are observed. Following the procedures established by law in parliament, following the procedures will save us all a lot of trouble and, most importantly, time. The union leaders know all these procedures but some prefer to apply kangaroo tactics, who appeal to (?the workers) to come out and tell the workers how to go about their business, fully aware that wasted opportunities undermines production and negatively affects the rate at which we expect to improve the quality of life. On the whole, however, government is satisfied with the leadership of the big majority of the workers' organization.

Government has been aware of the numerous complaints regarding the payment of PAYE [Pay As You Earn] by workers. This cry is genuine, but before a final decision can be taken, the Ministry of Finance will be given an opportunity to assess the full impact of removing it from the national revenue.

Meanwhile, the government appeals to workers to cooperate with it in the interests of national reconstruction and development. The TU's [trade unions] tripartism is incomplete without the employers and the government. Government is aware of the numerous problems facing the industries, especially with regard to the difficulties posed by the scarcity of foreign exchange. It is our hope that this will be overcome as we continue to put our heads together by adopting flexible and relevant policies in the course of industrial management.

Once it is finally decided to ask the employers to pay a training levy to government, the government believes that this will not be (?changing tactics) as another taxation. The aim should be to raise a competent work force capable of coping with modern production skills and techniques. The levy will ensure maximum participation of the employers in the training of their workers. On the part of government, although all is not yet well, a reasonable measure of steps have been taken or are being planned to ensure a cordial welcome for employers by government [words indistinct]. Government has already demonstrated its intention to democratize the unions by calling for free elections of leaders. This has further been strengthened through the encouragement of legitimate contacts between workers, employers with their international counterparts abroad, as long as these contacts are in the interests of the nation.

A considerable number of workers have in the recent past, and now, continued to travel abroad either for consultations or training programs with international counterparts. Likewise, government has encouraged outside visitors to run joint programs of training with the national organization of trade unions and its individual unions. In this way government has been able to assist and encourage workers to learn new developments and evolve a broader outlook. As long as funds are available this kind of interaction will be strengthened and encouraged. [passage omitted]

The government is well aware of the prevailing unprecedented high cost of living the wananchi [citizens] are facing. We all know how difficult it is to live on the present wages or salaries. While the government is involved in policies and measures to control this situation, the government wishes to remind the nation that we are part and parcel of the international community, which is undergoing similar inflationary trends, although, of course, not forgetting that ours was made worse by the bad leadership of the past regimes.

At this point, government wishes to thank those women and men who have continued to serve our motherland and have [words indistinct] under taxing conditions with dedication. In the same vein, however, I wish to appeal to both employers and workers to continue using their collective bargaining machinery to conclude mutually agreeable terms and conditions of service. On its part, government pledges to continue reviewing minimum wages from time to time and is in the process of doing so right now.

As you probably know, government is not only introducing legislation to cope with our (?whole) new situation but is all out to revise the existing laws to have them reflect the prevailing economic, political, and social conditions.

On the workers terminal benefits, government has already endorsed the autonomous nature of the national social security fund as established by Act No 8 of 1985. Arrangements are under way to appoint the board of directors. Government is also taking steps to avail the new corporation with the necessary logistics like computers, transport, etc with a view to making it render improved services to the workers.

The government is in the process of radically amending the workmen's compensation legislation with a view to removing the (?minimum) and maximum pay of compensation and covering other injuries not covered in the current legislation. This in effect means that every workman of whatever category in Uganda will be covered by the new proposals.

Similarly, the Factories Act is being revised to give it more scope and effectiveness to ensure [words indistinct] workers who are exposed to various occupational hazards. Moreover, occupational health and hygiene will soon have specific legislation to cater for the workers' health in both agricultural and industrial undertakings.

To facilitate a review of labor laws that are no longer in harmony with the present conditions, the ministry has instituted a task force to deal with the matter. Employers and workers are therefore invited to contribute to the success of this exercise.

Last, but not least, the industrial court has been strengthened by the appointment of an experienced judge as its president and already, since his appointment in June last year, the court has made a number of awards. A number of outstanding disputes have been settled. Government encourages unions to make use of the court instead of declaring illegal strikes.

May I end by wishing you all a good Labor Day. Thank you.
[applause]

Memorandum on Border Affairs Signed With Rwanda
EA041155 Dakar PANA in English 0825 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Kabale (Uganda), 4 May (UNA/PANA) — The bilateral border meeting which has been going on for three days in Kabale, south-western Uganda, between Uganda and Rwanda has ended with an appeal to both countries to translate into action all that has been agreed upon.

Speaking before the signing of a memorandum of understanding, the leader of the Ugandan delegation Mr Kesi Nyakimwe, said that the meeting tried its level best to cement good relations existing between the two countries. The leader of the Rwandese delegation, Mr Oswald Rukashaza, said the "the Rwandese

Government attaches great importance to good-neighbourliness so that the people of the two countries can live in peace and harmony."

During the meeting it was agreed that Rwandese identity cards should be used domestically.

On trade, the two sides were satisfied that markets along the common border have been transferred and only one market remained. Rwanda promised to take immediate action.

It was further decided that the sub-committees formed recently on Kabale and Byumba, Kisoro and Ruhengeri should meet regularly to discuss border trade. The memorandum reiterated that smugglers and criminals be arrested in each of the countries without waiting for official communication.

On the question of Rwandese students in Uganda, especially in Kabale District, without documents, it was agreed that they must get travel disclosed to be signed whereby the two countries will exchange teachers to work in their educational institutions.
[sentence as received]

The next meeting of experts will be held in Kigali, Rwanda, in the last week of this month.

CAMEROON

Chad Radio on Arrest of Libyans With Explosives

AB020759 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
0530 GMT 2 May 87

[Text] Libyan terrorism has been discovered in Garoua, northern Cameroon. Three Libyans with 39 kg of explosives in their vehicle have been arrested by Cameroonian police. The explosives were to have been used to blow up the Garoua Bridge over the Benoue River. This span links northern and southern Cameroon.

For the past 3 days, security has been tightened in Garoua. The town is under close surveillance and vehicles are being thoroughly and systematically searched.

It should be noted that Cameroon has long been a target of Colonel al-Qadhafi. The restoration of diplomatic relations between Cameroon and Israel only served to increase Al-Qadhafi's hatred of President Biya's Cameroon.

Biya Leaves for Official Visit to France 4 May

AB041720 Dakar PANA in French 1625 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Yaounde, 4 May (CAMNEWS/PANA)—The Cameroonian head of state, Paul Biya, and his wife left Douala this morning for Paris to begin an official visit at the invitation of French President Francois Mitterrand.

In an interview published today by the daily *Cameroon Tribune*, Yvon Omnes, the French ambassador to Cameroon, said that in addition to cooperation in agriculture, education, scientific research, and so on, France could work with Cameroon by creating "partnerships" between French and Cameroonian firms. This form of collaboration, he added, is quite important and is expected to facilitate technology transfers.

In the field of trade, Mr Omnes revealed that Cameroon's balance showed a surplus in 1985, which shrank in 1986 due to the world economic crisis.

The state visit will end on 6 May.

Biya Comments on Trip

LD041813 Paris International Service in French
1245 GMT 4 May 87

[Report on interview with President Paul Biya by Jean-Karim Fall; date and place not given; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] The president of Cameroon is expected this afternoon at Orly, one of two international airports near Paris. In fact, Paul Biya is paying his first official visit to France — a state visit as it is called — since he became the Cameroonian head of state. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent Jean-Karim Fall asked President Paul Biya before his departure for France if one could speak of a warming in relations between Yaounde and Paris. After all, this trip to France follows a series of visits to other Western countries. Here is the Cameroon president's reply:

"To talk of a warming presupposes a cooling, but in fact such a thing has never happened. We continue our relations. There have always been exchanges of official visits by those working with the president, and the prime minister was here recently. You mentioned my trips abroad. Indeed, I made them because they were necessary after the changes that have occurred in Cameroon. We had to show the countries which are our friends that Cameroon's policy toward them has not changed. [passage omitted]"

President Biya also discussed what he specifically expects of his French partner in terms of aid.

"We expect support from Paris through credits and public aid. We are expecting the central fund for economic cooperation, the fund for aid and cooperation, French financial bodies, [words indistinct] to give specific support to our economic relations."

One question in the talks between France and Cameroon will be the possibility of the IMF's intervention in Cameroon. However, President Biya was quick to point out that the final decision on this matter will of course lie with Cameroon.

Equatorial Guinea Emissary Delivers Message

AB041716 Dakar PANA in French 1211 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Yaounde, 4 May (CAMNEWS/PANA) — Equatorial Guinea is satisfied with her membership in the UDEAC [Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa], which constitutes a large subregional market. This was stated in Yaounde over the weekend by Mr Evoua Alejandro, minister and secretary general at the Presidency of Equatorial Guinea. He made this remark after delivering a message from Obiang Nguema Mbazogo to his Cameroonian counterpart, President Biya.

The emissary noted that the message dealt with the reinforcement of cooperation between Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea. He explained that it also covered the establishment and development of new areas of collaboration to intensify the common struggle against the economic crisis.

In addition, Mr Evoua said his country's membership in UDEAC was quite important economically. It had made a great contribution to the creation of a cooperative climate in the subregion.

CAR

Bokassa Trial Focuses on Loss of Funds, Oil

AB291445 Paris AFP in French 2109 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Bangui, 28 Apr (AFP) — Members of the Bangui criminal court that has been trying former Emperor Bokassa since 26 November today attempted to determine the

whereabouts of the funds of certain state enterprises of the Bokassa regime, as well as the whereabouts of some oil delivered by Iraq to the CAR in 1976. This question took up the bulk of the proceedings of the court's 70th session. It was not possible to make a clear determination of how the 100,000 metric tons of crude oil, which were refined by Mobil Oil before delivery to the CAR, were used. [passage omitted]

Accountant Appointed for Audit

AB011430 Paris AFP in French 1827 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] Bangui, 30 Apr (AFP) — The Bangui criminal court, which has been trying Jean-Bedel Bokassa since 26 November 1986, appointed an accountant today to examine all documents relating to the charges of embezzlement brought against the former emperor. This decision was made by the court president, Edouard Frank, at the 72d sitting. This was due to the very complex nature of the documents on the misused funds, which observers estimate at 13 billion CFA francs.

Eric Sorongope, a chartered accountant at the CAR high court, is expected to submit his findings on 13 May. The documents are vouchers and statements of bank accounts opened at various banks in Bangui in the name of the defendant or the CAR Government.

The former emperor has expressed hope that the accountant's findings will lead to the arrest of some CAR citizens who were also guilty of embezzling public funds.

CHAD

'No Clouds' Over Relations With France

AB021414 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
0530 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] The president of the republic, Hissain Habre, granted an audience late yesterday morning to Fernand Wibaux, the diplomatic adviser to the French Government. The head of state and the French Government's emissary reviewed bilateral relations.

According to sources close to the Presidency, President Hissain Habre thanked the French Government for its considerable support in the face of the aggression against Chad. However, he reiterated his desire to see France increase its assistance and modify it according to the evolution of the situation. This is a denial of biased rumors speaking of differences between France and Chad. Therefore, we can say there are no clouds over relations between the two countries.

Commentary on Arrest of Libyans in Cameroon

AB022147 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 2 May 87

[Moussa Dago commentary]

[Text] Al-Qadhdhafi, Al-Qadhdhafi again! (?Two) days ago, the mad man of Sidra sent agents in his pay to Garoua in Cameroon,

with orders to blow up the Garoua Bridge. The criminals, who were carrying nearly 40 kg of explosives in their vehicle, were arrested by the Cameroonian security forces. Beyond that country, Chad was the Libyan regime's direct target in this unprecedented act of barbarity. For the Libyan regime, when blackmail, intimidation, and threats against a country fail, terrorist action is the preferred option. It is an effective way to undermine the target government and sow confusion among the people to force the country to show greater goodwill in its attitude toward Libya.

Al-Qadhdhafi thus intends to use this weapon against Cameroon [words indistinct]. The most recent proof was on Wednesday with the arrest of three Libyans transporting 40 kg of explosives with which they intended to blow up the Garoua Bridge on the Bonne River. The target was chosen by Libya for two reasons, but the sole common denominator was Chad. By taking aim at the Garoua Bridge, over which goods enter and leave Chad, Tripoli sought to destroy our country economically after failing to do so militarily. In any case, that is one of the numerous faces of the all-out war being waged against our country by Libya.

Also by this action, the Libyan regime wanted to warn Cameroon, whose support for the Chadian Government has grown more and more open recently. It is recalled, in fact, that in a recent interview on Chadian television, President Paul Biya asked the Libyan occupation forces to leave Chad. Never before had Cameroon's position been so clear. Al-Qadhdhafi (?struck back) a few days later by saying Cameroon had become one of Libya's most dangerous enemies in Chad, along with France and the United States.

The relative reserve shown by the Cameroonian Foreign Ministry on the Chadian issue, and the continued presence of the Libyan Embassy in Yaounde despite Tripoli's activism in the region, were interpreted by Al-Qadhdhafi not as a sign of political wisdom, but of weakness on the part of Cameroonian officials. This (?led) the Libyan regime to believe it could act with impunity and send a sort of call to order to the Cameroonians. However, Al-Qadhdhafi had not counted on the nationalism of the Cameroonian authorities, who are extremely scrupulous when it comes to any threat to their sovereignty and security.

However, there is another meaning to this premeditated act by the Libyan commando unit in Garoua. By aiming at a target situated outside of Chadian territory and about 500 km from the capital, the Libyan regime has in effect demonstrated its inability to act directly in Chad. Despite that, its choice of that region and that precise target reflects its desire to show that its war against Chad continues.

Ndjamena Views Libreville OAU Meeting, ICJ Role

AB011419 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
0530 GMT 1 May 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] A true slap in the face for the barbaric and expansionist regime in Tripoli and a far-reaching victory for Chadian diplomacy is the least that can be said of the results of the OAU ad hoc committee meeting responsible for a thorough examination

of all aspects of the Chad-Libya border dispute. Having no valid argument to present before the experts present in Libreville, the invaders found no better solution than to adopt the policy of abstention, to the stupefaction of Gabonese Foreign Minister Martin Bongo. Even the countries known on the African Continent for their Marxist policy were amazed by Libya's (?cowardly attitude). The barbaric horde of (?the man from) Sidra — let us not mince words — has been affected by the impulse that prompts some people to start fires, which is known as pyromania. Unfortunately, they themselves always become the victims of these same fires.

In fact, the reason Al-Qadhafi did not want to send a representative to the Libreville meeting is clear. His presence would have signed the death warrant of a colonial policy that is now turning against the amnesiac of Tripoli much as a fire turns against he who set it. Is there a more fitting word than amnesia to explain the cowardly attitude shown by the Libyans to the African public? In fact, amnesia means a gap in, or total loss of memory. The Libyans have completely lost their memory. Otherwise, how can one explain that they had recognized Aozou as an integral part of Chadian territory before annexing it in 1973? Where were they between 1960 and 1973? How can a place that had not belonged to Libya in 1960 become its property 13 years later? It is at this level that all the contradictions appear concerning the proposals made here and there to take the matter to the International Court of Justice [ICJ] in The Hague.

It is true that we would certainly win the case at this international court, but we cannot appear before it because it is, first of all, a question of honor, justice, pride and, therefore, of collective survival. Who among us would be ready to negotiate over a part of his body because it had supposedly been claimed by someone else? No one, of course. This is why Chad will under no circumstances appear before the ICJ. If ridicule does not prove fatal to the Libyan side, at least the Chadians will remain a proud people, jealous of their independence and freedom.

The paradox of the just-ended Libreville meeting concerns the African leaders. They always hesitate to identify the aggressor and constantly give the impression that they are trying at all costs to find an honorable way out for him. After the policy of abstention adopted by Libya in the Gabonese capital, it is now clearer than ever that Tripoli will never [word indistinct] accept the so-called committee of experts, which includes lawyers, cartographers, and others. In any case, it is time for the international public to assume its responsibilities by pointing an accusing finger at Al-Qadhafi.

Fewer Than 50 Workers Attend May Day Meeting

*AB021551 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 1 May 87*

[Excerpt] The working masses of the Chadian capital met today at the Labor Hall to celebrate May Day. The ceremony began at 0900 and ended an hour later. It was held under the chairmanship of Oudalbaye Naham, minister of labor, employment, and professional training. Minister Naham spoke to the nearly 50 workers, the only ones who honored this important workers' ceremony with their presence. This poor and sad participation of workers

from the Chadian capital was condemned by the intertrade unions committee, which was responsible for organizing the May Day holiday. However, it did admit some shortcomings in preparations for the festivities.

[passage omitted]

RWANDA

Kenyan Foreign Minister Arrives on 5-Day Visit

*EA021622 Kigali Domestic Service in Kinyarwanda
1700 GMT 1 May 87*

[Excerpts] Kenyan Foreign Minister Elijah Mwangale arrived in Kigali today on a 5-day visit to our country. [passage omitted] Mwangale told Rwandan journalists at Kanombe Airport that he has come at the invitation of his Rwandan counterpart and that he bears a message from President Daniel arap Moi for our president, Major General Juvenal Habyarimana. He said he will hold talks with Rwandan officials during his stay here.

Mwangale said bilateral relations are good, and that this has long been the case. He said there are links in many sectors, particularly in trade and transport. He said that many Rwandan goods pass through the port of Mombasa, and he hopes his visit to our country will enhance these relations. [passage omitted]

Meets With Habyarimana

*EA042013 Kigali Domestic Service in French
1800 GMT 4 May 87*

[Summary] President Habyarimana received the two visiting Kenyan ministers today. They are Foreign Minister Elijah Mwangale and Kenneth Matiba, the minister for works, housing, and physical planning. In a statement afterward, Mr Mwangale said he had conveyed a message to President Habyarimana from his Kenyan counterpart.

ZAIRE

AZAP Outlines Benguela Railroad Rehabilitation

*AB041612 Kinshasa AZAP in French
0805 GMT 4 May 87*

[AZAP commentary: "Benguela — The Train Soon on the Tracks"]

[Text] Kinshasa, 4 May (AZAP) — Efforts to rehabilitate the Benguela Railroad are slowly but surely having results. This is due to the summit on 30 April that brought together Presidents dos Santos of Angola, Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, and Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, whose countries have a direct interest in reopening this line, which has an important and undeniable political and strategic part to play in the region.

In fact, the three heads of state have signed a declaration of intent authorizing the creation of an international company to rehabili-

tate and operate the Benguela Railroad, which was closed to traffic 12 years ago.

In order to execute the project as quickly as possible, Angola, Zaire, and Zambia have decided to form an implementation committee, which will be responsible for writing the agreement on the company to be created, determining the capital shares of each partner, and taking measures to assess the physical state of the railroad. This will permit a feasibility study to be done. It will also prepare the necessary documents on the project, which will be needed in the application for financial aid from international organizations.

At this point, the personal efforts of President Mobutu should be noted. He has worked to convince Western businessmen that the Benguela line must be rehabilitated and that it can be profitable. It will provide the Frontline States with access to the sea without being subjected to the whims of a racist regime, which shamelessly blackmails those independent countries of southern Africa that are dependent on its roads.

Therefore, the presence in Lusaka of a representative of the company with a controlling interest in the Benguela Railroad should be an obvious sign. It reflects the desire of all parties concerned to see area countries benefit once more from this communications route, and for those who have sunk their money into it to get a return on their investment.

Given the prevailing tension in southern Africa, the reopening of the Benguela line has become an urgent necessity for all states of the region seeking to end their dependence on South Africa.

Furthermore, with the reopening of this railroad, the "frontline" concept itself will be transferred from the political field to the economic sector. After all, it is known that South Africa's political leverage with its less fortunate neighbors is effective due to the fact these countries are forced to endure this pressure with good grace, as they depend on South Africa's ports.

One cannot overemphasize that the reopening of the Benguela Railroad will introduce new variables into the search for a solution to the problems of that part of Africa dominated by the Boer regime's refusal to grant independence to Namibia and to see the black majority in South Africa enjoy its human and political rights.

Thus, it is no coincidence that the three heads of state meeting in the Zambian capital examined developments in southern Africa and condemned the growing repression which the apartheid regime applies to all who do not share its views.

The Lusaka meeting, which follows those in Luanda and Kasaba Bay, is a decisive turning point in the implementation of the Benguela Railroad rehabilitation project. Therefore, one can say that after the decisions of the Lusaka summit, the project is back on track.

BENIN

PRC Friendship Group Ends Visit, Departs
AB012142 Cotonou Domestic Service in French
 1930 GMT 1 May 87

[Excerpt] The visit of the delegation from the Chinese Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries ended this afternoon in Cotonou. The members of the group were seen off by Comrade Robert Kekevi Goumoua, member of the Central Committee of the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin. His closest aides accompanied him. [passage omitted]

BURKINA FASO

Further on Visits of Chad Opposition Leaders

Acheikh ibn Oumar Comments
AB041550 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
 1300 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] At the end of a visit lasting about a week, the current president of the GUNT [Transitional National Union Government], Mr Acheikh ibn Oumar, was granted an audience this morning by President Thomas Sankara.

At the end of the audience, Acheikh ibn Oumar said that his visit to Burkina Faso was fruitful. He also expressed appreciation for the presence in Ouagadougou of his former partner, Goukouni Oueddei. We will now hear Acheikh ibn Oumar speaking to our reporter, Issiaka Ly Kourouma.

[Begin recording][Acheikh ibn Oumar] We have already told you that various diplomatic moves have been launched by our African brothers to find a peaceful political solution to the Chadian conflict. Burkina Faso, through Comrade Thomas Sankara, is currently playing an important role here.

The problem is quite complex, perhaps even intractable. So I think that there is the need to carefully determine the various aspects of the solution and possible approaches before moving to the implementation phase. In this regard, the very fruitful talks we have held so far with Comrade President Sankara will be followed up by other talks in the near future. We hope such talks, which will be held not only at our level, but also at the level of all the other parties involved, will be more fruitful.

[Kourouma] Political observers have noted that you and Goukouni Oueddei are in Ouagadougou at the same time. What do you think is the significance of this, considering that both of you were associates?

[Acheikh ibn Oumar] First of all, we are both Chadians. There was a memorable time when Goukouni Oueddei (?and I) fought within a single organization. It is, therefore, normal for us to meet here or somewhere else. In addition, Goukouni Oueddei himself, like many other [words indistinct] to contribute to a political solution [words indistinct] since one can only achieve reconciliation with opponents and not with oneself.

I must also explain that the [words indistinct] are important political developments because we had thought that he had defected to the other side [words indistinct]. Although we did not have direct contacts, we do not rule out the possibility that in the search for a political solution, we may make direct or indirect contacts to harmonize our positions. [end recording]

BBC Reports Goukouni Remarks
AB041700 London BBC World Service in English
 1615 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Journalists in Ouagadougou excitedly turned up at a press conference at the weekend. It was called by the government of Captain Thomas Sankara amid much speculation that a diplomatic coup was in the offing by bringing together archrivals in the Chad conflict. Goukouni Oueddei, who defected from his Libyan supporters and put his forces successfully at the disposal of Hissein Habre's government, and Acheikh ibn Oumar, who claims to have taken over the opposition GUNT [Transitional National Union Government] movement under the Libyan umbrella. Both were in town; the question was who would turn up. Certainly, last week, Oumar said he had no intention of talking to Goukouni. From Ouagadougou, Joan Dexter cabled this report.

[Begin recording] Before the press conference began, there was some confusion among journalists about just who they were going to interview. Both Acheikh ibn Oumar and Goukouni Oueddei claim to be president of GUNT, which appears now to represent two separate forces, those in favor of the government in Ndjamena and those still seeking support from Libya. When at last journalists were admitted to the presidential press room, it was Goukouni Oueddei who greeted them somberly. He looked very thin and tired. He was vague about the purpose of his visit to Burkina Faso, saying only that it was a friendly country and that he had stayed only to rest a little during the first difficult week of Ramadan.

But on the subject of a possible meeting with Acheikh ibn Oumar, he was bitter and to the point. He said he could not bring himself to mention Acheikh's name and that were it not for the sake of Burkina Faso, he would not have stayed a single day in the same town as his archrival, whom he called a treacherous traitor. He said that most of the difficulties that he as GUNT leader — and he maintained he was still leader of GUNT — had had with Habre's government in Ndjamena could be directly blamed on Acheikh ibn Oumar. And he stated plainly that he and GUNT now recognize Hissein Habre as the legitimate leader of Chad.

He reiterated his desire to see the Chad conflict submitted to the World Court and said he had hoped that the ad hoc OAU meeting in Libreville would make progress in spite of Libya's refusal to attend. Asked where he was going from Ouagadougou, he declined to answer, saying only that he was leaving very soon. [end recording]

Acheikh ibn Oumar Departs*AB041640 Paris AFP French 1542 GMT 4 Mar 87*

[Text] Ouagadougou, 4 May [AFP] — Burkina Faso's mediation through Captain Thomas Sankara, Burkinabe head of state, who sought to reconcile the GUNT [Transitional National Union Government] "brothers and enemies," has failed as Acheikh ibn Oumar, the New GUNT leader, left Ouagadougou this afternoon without meeting Goukouni Oueddei, his predecessor as the GUNT leader.

Acheikh ibn Oumar, who remained in the Burkinabe capital for a week and held several rounds of talks with Capt Sankara, has left for Brazzaville, according to reliable sources.

Before his departure, the New GUNT leader held another 2-hour meeting with the Burkinabe head of state. Following that meeting, Acheikh ibn Oumar, in spite of this obvious failure, made a rather optimistic statement, the terms of which are in sharp contrast with the cutting remarks made yesterday [3 May] by Goukouni Oueddei, observers noted.

In fact, Acheikh ibn Oumar asserted that "the change that has come over Brother Goukouni is quite positive, because we had the impression, at one time, that he had joined the other camp with bag and baggage." "However, judging from his recent stand, it seems that he is in a better humor. Therefore, although we have not had direct contact with him, it is possible that we will try to harmonize our stands either directly or indirectly within the framework of a search for political solutions," the New GUNT leader added.

For his part, Goukouni Oueddei, after a fresh round of talks yesterday with Capt Sankara, accused Acheikh ibn Oumar of betraying the Chadian cause.

Declaring that to him, Acheikh ibn Oumar's very name was "taboo," Mr Goukouni added: "As a Chadian, and on behalf of the GUNT over which I preside, I am saying that this man, (Acheikh ibn Oumar), betrayed his country and the Chadian cause. He bears full responsibility for all that has happened to Chad. Because of our mistakes and our petty calculations, we have given victory to Hissein Habre, whose authority as the head of state I recognize."

Touching on the recent deliberations of the OAU ad hoc committee on Chad, Goukouni Oueddei, who is still in the Burkinabe capital, expressed regret at Libya's absence from the Libreville meeting.

"We are for those who advocate peace in Chad," he said, stating that he favored Gabonese President Omar Bongo's stand on Chad.

Foreign Minister Returns From Congo, Gabon*AB020926 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 1 May 87*

[Text] Comrade Leandre Bassolet, minister of external relations and cooperation, has just returned from a mission that took him

successively to Brazzaville, in the People's Republic of Congo, and to Libreville, in the Gabonese Republic. Our minister of external relations was the bearer of messages from the comrade president of the CNR [National Council of the Revolution] to his counterparts Denis Sassou-Nguesso and El Hadj Omar Bongo, in their respective capacities as current chairman of the OAU and chairman of the OAU mediation committee on the Chadian crisis. It is, therefore, in strict respect of the OAU's structures that Burkina continues to make its modest contribution to the search for a just solution to the crisis, for the exclusive benefit of the Chadian people and of Africa.

GHANA**Workers Hold May Day Rally; PNDC Member Speaks***AB012127 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 1 May 87*

[Excerpt] Workers' rallies were held throughout the country today to mark May Day. In Accra, a parade of thousands of workers and voluntary groups took place at the Independence Square. A member of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Brigadier Mensah-Wood, addressed them. He said the main objective of the celebration should be the reappraisal of traditional labor practice and tactics. There is therefore the need to identify new strategies that will solve the problems facing society. According to the PNDC member, it is when new strategies are evolved that a greater national wealth could be created for all categories of workers, including farmers, fishermen, and their families. Brig Mensah-Wood spoke of the PNDC's belief in the importance of workers' education in the economic and social transformation of the society. [passage omitted]

Delegation Returns From Afghanistan, USSR*AB041931 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 4 May 87*

[Text] A 3-member government delegation has returned to Accra after a 3-week visit to Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. The visits were at the invitation of those governments. Miss Doris Ocansey, executive secretary at the CDR [Committee for the Defense of the Revolution] National Secretariat, who led the delegation, told newsmen that the members participated in the 9th anniversary of the Afghan revolution. She said Ghana can learn a lot from the organizational ability of the Afghan people in mobilizing all identifiable groups into one formidable coordinated body. This has greatly contributed to the rapid literacy growth among Afghan youth from 8 percent in 1978 to an unprecedented level in present times.

In the Soviet Union, Miss Ocansey and the delegation held talks with officials of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, as well as trade union leaders. She said following discussions with officials in Tashkent, a leading cotton growing area, an agreement of friendship will soon be signed between that city and Tema for their industrial growth.

The other members of the delegation were Mr Johnson Kweku Sesa of the Ministry of Information and Mr Julius Lamprey, CDR organizing assistant in Tema.

Ethiopian Leader Dispatches Envoys With Messages

*AB041932 Accra Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 4 May 87*

[Text] The Ethiopian leader, Lieutenant Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, today dispatched two envoys with special messages to the chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, and the leaders of eight other African countries. Details of the messages have not been disclosed. An official statement in Addis Ababa said the envoys, the information minister, Mr Gedle-Giorgis Felleke, and the culture minister, Mr Yilma Girma, will also have discussions with their hosts on bilateral relations and the general situation on the continent. The countries to be visited, apart from Ghana, are Kenya, Uganda, Congo, Burkina Faso, Sudan, Djibouti, and Somalia.

13 Percent Growth Recorded in Industrial Sector

*AB011616 Accra Domestic Service in English
1300 GMT 1 May 87*

[Excerpt] The secretary for industries, science and technology, Dr Francis Acquah, has said the first phase of the Economic Recovery Program [ERP], which covered 1984-86 registered a growth of 13 percent in the industrial sector. He said this has enabled the government to take stock of available opportunities for the success of the second phase. Dr Acquah was giving a lecture on the state of the economy, the industrial sector, and the ERP at Legon, as part of activities to mark the political science week of the University of Ghana. He said notable achievements were recorded during that period in the textile, pharmaceutical, and food processing subsectors. Dr Acquah said all subsectors showed some improvement in capacity utilization over previous performance and attributed this to the more rational basis of allocating resources backed by the foreign exchange equivalent. Explaining the reason for the deterioration in Ghana's economy in the 1970's, Dr Acquah said past policies did not favor the growth of indigenous small and medium-scale or intermediate industries. He said price distortions in the 1970's have actually encouraged trading ventures and illegal activities rather than industrial productive activities. [passage omitted]

GUINEA

Communique Issued on May Day Celebrations

*AB042238 Conakry Domestic Service in French
1945 GMT 4 May 87*

[Communique issued by the CMRN (Military Committee for National Redress) in Conakry on May Day celebrations and the internal situation — date not given]

[Text] The CMRN met on Saturday, 2 May 1987, at the Palace of Nations from 1000 to 1500 under the chairmanship of General

Lansana Conte. The CMRN reviewed mainly the festivities of 1 May 1987 and the prevailing situation in the country. The CMRN members thoroughly examined the prevailing situation in the country. They first of all expressed satisfaction with the success of the festivities that marked the International Workers Day on 1 May 1987. They noted with satisfaction that throughout all the towns and particularly in Conakry, workers were mobilized massively in order and discipline in response to the call by their central trade union, the National Confederation of Guinean Workers, to renew their sincere support for the national recovery program adopted by the government of the Second Republic. The CMRN congratulates all Guinean workers, both in the public and private sectors, for the success of the festivities. It encourages them to persevere in their work and to accept further sacrifices so that in unity and harmony the people of Guinea will win the battle against underdevelopment.

The CMRN also closely examined the internal situation which is characterized by false rumors fomented and maintained by leaflets illegally distributed by ambitious persons who are nostalgic about the old regime. On reading the pamphlets, it becomes quite evident that their authors hope to take advantage of the economic difficulties in the country to achieve their unavowable aims.

In fact, it is no secret to anyone that the important economic and financial reforms initiated by the CMRN and its government demands from each Guinean, particularly the (?city dwellers), immense sacrifices which the CMRN knows are difficult and even painful. But the CMRN equally knows that these difficult and painful sacrifices are absolutely indispensable to the country's economic recovery, considering what it inherited from the past regime.

The handful of Guineans who have placed their personal ambitions and their selfish interests above the supreme interests of Guinea want to take advantage of the freedom regained since 3 April 1984, by distributing insulting and false leaflets to incite the Guinean people to question the confidence and [word indistinct] it has in the CMRN and its government. The leaflets are aimed at sowing confusion among the citizens especially to divide our people. The authors [words indistinct] to distract the CMRN and the government from the line that they have traced for the country's economic and social recovery, by giving in to the provocations posed by the form and the meaning of these pamphlets.

At the end of its review, the CMRN firmly renewed its pledge to pursue its recovery program, convinced that the salvation of the country and the people depend on it. The CMRN invites all Guineans, wherever they may be, whatever their tribal groups, their religion, and their social status, to close ranks behind it and the government to make the nostalgic persons understand that their futile agitation constitutes a rear guard combat of a lost war.

Concerning the leaflets in circulation, the CMRN recalls that in Guinea as well as in all organized countries, whatever the political regime, the printing and distribution of leaflets are subjected to regulations that each citizen and person living in the country is expected to know. It draws the attention of all to the fact that

henceforth, anyone who will print and distribute any written matter without conforming to the existing laws and regulations, will answer to his actions before the courts which will be obliged to apply scrupulously and strictly the laws on that matter.

The CMRN is committed to pursuing, against all odds, the line that it has chosen, convinced that it is the only way that will lead the country to the needed economic recovery and to the happiness to which our people aspire. It gives the assurance to all countrymen and friendly countries that it will respect all pledges made on 3 April 1984, and to this end it will do everything in its power to preserve peace and national unity.

Signed: the CMRN.

Trade Union Celebrates

AB031043 Conakry Domestic Service In French
1945 GMT 1 May 87

[Excerpts] Millions of workers throughout the world today celebrated international Labor Day. The rise to power of the CMRN in April 1984 has restored the full significance of the date of 1 May as a day of international solidarity and reflection. Labor day was thus celebrated nationwide today with much fanfare. The labor day ceremony in Conakry was held on the esplanade of the People's Palace. An important CMRN and cabinet delegation led by the minister and permanent secretary of CMRN, Major Kerfalla Camara, presided over the rally organized at the People's Palace by the Confederal Bureau of the CNTG [National Confederation of Guinean Workers], the only trade union organization in Guinea. [passage omitted]

The secretary general of the CNTG, Dr (Mohamed Samba Kebe), reaffirmed and exalted this common desire on the part of the workers and their labor movement, which seeks to operate as a union of edification, mobilizing the entire working force against world recession. [passage omitted]

In the face of world recession and the fragility of our economy, the only way to assure workers' welfare is unity in carrying out our common program. In pursuit of this unity, the Guinea trade union intends to participate in the edification, the management, and the sharing of the fruits of labor by taking part in decisions that concern the lives of workers. What do Guinean workers want? Here is the reply of (Mohamed Samba Kebe):

[Begin recording] They want to help accelerate the process of improving their living conditions in the face of the galloping rise in the cost of living. It is therefore time to immediately establish an adequate system of price control to arrest the rise in prices which, at this mounting rate, tends to eliminate any benefits which could be granted to workers. There is also the need to introduce a housing law to rescue workers from landlords who arbitrarily increase rents and do not hesitate to evict workers in accordance with their whims and caprices.

The trade union plays an important role in Guinean life and remains incontestably the most reliable body in the country. It is therefore desirable that it should play a role in the decisions affecting workers' interests. [end recording]

Cooperation Agreement Signed With USSR AB030838 Conakry Domestic Service In French 1945 GMT 2 May 87

[Text] An agreement for the establishment of an intergovernmental commission of economic, scientific, technical, and commercial cooperation was signed this morning between our country and the USSR. The two parties were represented at the ceremony by Edouard Benjamin, minister at the presidency for plan and international cooperation, and (Vladimir Idecky), USSR ambassador to Guinea.

The Guinean minister for plan and international cooperation stressed that today's agreement ends the former type of cooperation that was devoid of a permanent institutional framework. He said this comes over a quarter of a century after the establishment of our relations of friendship and cooperation. For more details, let us listen to Edouard Benjamin, minister of plan and international cooperation, who was interviewed by Nadih Camara.

[Begin Benjamin recording] Mr Ambassador, in signing this agreement, we have expressed the desire of our two governments to establish an appropriate institutional framework to monitor the implementation of our various cooperation agreements and examine pending issues and new proposals for this cooperation, thus guaranteeing the establishment and development of our program of cooperation.

We are pleased to note that the agreement signed today, over a quarter of a century after the establishment of our relations of friendship and cooperation, has put an end to the paradox of active cooperation devoid of a permanent institutional framework.

We, therefore, hope that the new instrument we have established will make it possible to guarantee the necessary [word indistinct] for our cooperative relations, and contribute efficiently to the harmonious development of these relations.

I would like to assure you, Mr Ambassador, that the CMRN, the government, and the president of the Republic expect a lot from this intergovernmental commission, for which an agreement has just been signed. We hope that it will give fresh impetus to cooperation between Guinea and the USSR, and thus strengthen the cordial friendship between our two peoples. [end recording]

The USSR ambassador to our country, (Vladimir Idecky), expressed satisfaction with the signing of this agreement, which adds a new dimension to bilateral cooperation between his country and Guinea.

[Begin (Idecky) recording] This agreement constitutes an expression of the friendly relations between our two countries. The present agreement will, in the future, make it possible to develop our mutually advantageous economic cooperation in various areas. We consider our objective to be the strengthening and improvement of our relations for the development of our countries, and aid to the Republic of Guinea for the implementation of the CMRN's development program.

We hope that the intergovernmental commission will become an efficient instrument for solving economic, scientific, technical, and commercial problems. [end recording]

GUINEA-BISSAU

New Monetary, Budgetary Policies Adopted AB042025 Paris AFP in French 1304 GMT 4 May

[Text] Bissau, 4 May (AFP) — The Guinea-Bissau Government initiated new monetary and budgetary policies on 4 May, by devaluing the peso, the national currency, by 145 percent and by setting up new taxes.

According to an official communique, the peso devaluation is aimed at bringing the currency to its real value, and is in keeping with the economic liberalization policy. Thus, the U.S. dollar is now worth 650 pesos, compared with 265 before. The monetary readjustment efforts had already prompted the government to adopt a low devaluation rate of one percent every week. The new measure is the most dramatic devaluation of the country's currency to date.

The rate of the peso will not remain fixed. According to a government decree, the country's National Bank will maintain a flexible exchange rate policy, with possible adjustments in the exchange rates. Furthermore, the Bank was authorized to grant economic operators who export or import from their own resources, 50 percent of the free on board (FOB) value of exported goods. This ceiling will be raised to 70 percent beginning 30 July 1987, according to official sources.

Similarly, the government has decided to raise by 15 percent, 28 percent, and 32 percent, respectively, the highest, medium, and lowest salaries in the public service. It also tripled fuel prices: The price of one liter of unleaded gasoline went up from 113 to 350 pesos, while that of leaded gasoline increased to 340 pesos, and that of gas-oil to 200 pesos. The price increases, which also include electricity, the price of which quadrupled, are aimed at encouraging an austerity policy, stabilizing prices, and controlling the smuggling of fuels, it was learned from official sources.

In order to increase the state receipts, new taxes and duties have been imposed on gasoline (10 percent), beer (85 percent), and liquor (40 percent), and on the exports of cashew nuts (50 percent). The rates of professional taxes have been updated, while export duties on some products have been abolished.

Finally, the Guinea-Bissau Government has published a new law that sets the retirement age at 60, with the possibility for the worker to retire at 50 or after 15 years of service, whatever his age may be.

NIGER

5-Year Development Plan Adopted 30 Apr AB011452 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers met today, 30 April 1987, under the chairmanship of His Excellency General Seyni Kountche, chairman of the Supreme Military Council, head of state, and chairman of the Council of Ministers. The council examined and adopted the draft ordinance approving the 1987 through 1991 5-year economic and social development plan. [passage omitted]

To achieve the various objectives contained in the plan, the government decided to fix at about 580 billion CFA francs the total amount of the public investments for the 1987-1991 5-year plan.

NIGERIA

Clashes Occur Between Transport Owners, Workers

Fighting in Benin City AB041620 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Normalcy has returned to Benin's motor parks, following police intervention to prevent further clashes between members of the National Union of Road Transport Workers and the Transport Owners' Association. Two weeks ago, the state government banned all unions and associations other than the local government officials from operating within and around the motor parks in the state capital.

Bendel Police Confiscate Arms AB042132 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] The police in Bendel State have arrested 65 members of the National Union of Road Transport Employers Association in Benin. They were rounded up while allegedly mobilizing themselves to attack members of a rival body, the National Union of Road Transport Workers. During a raid, large quantities of arms including locally made guns, axes, cutlasses of various makes, and clubs, were said to have been recovered from the men. The two rival bodies have been at each other's throat for the past 3 months, in order to control the motor parks in the state. Two weeks ago, the state government banned all unions and associations other than local government officials from operating within and around motor parks in the state.

Lagos University To Reopen 1 Week After Closure AB042136 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] The Senate of the University of Lagos has decided to reopen the institution closed down last week. Final and first year

students have been advised to report to campus on Wednesday [6 May], while other students [passage indistinct] to be of good behavior.

SENEGAL

Interior Ministry Guidelines on Rehiring Police
AB011837 Dakar Domestic Service in French
 2200 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Excerpt] The Ministry of Interior today issued a statement clarifying the conditions for the reintegration of cadres of the police force. Oumar Seick has the details on this statement:

[Seick] The *Official Gazette* on 28 April 1987 published Decree No 87-544 issued on 28 April which, in compliance with Law No 87-14 concerning the dismissal of cadres of the police force, states the conditions under which these cadres can be reemployed on an individual basis. In implementing Article 2 of that decree, it is the duty of the dismissed person wishing to be reintegrated to forward an application for reintegration to his original component. This application will be scrutinized by the various commissions to be set up soon as provided for by this decree. The aim of this statement is to provide clarifications on how these applications for reintegration should be forwarded.

1. All personnel of the police force, without exception, must reapply. This also applies to those who, in implementing Article 1 of the decree, were temporarily reintegrated by order to enable the National Security Forces to carry out some essential duties.

2. The applications for reintegration must include individual particulars stipulated in the decree — surname, name, date and place of birth, employment registration number, rank, service attached to, exact description of last duty when the suspension order was issued, and a formal declaration that the staff member commits himself to discharging his duty faithfully in accordance with the code of the police force, as prescribed by amended Law 66-07 of 18 January 1966.

3. Personnel who belonged to the bodies of police commissioners and senior police officers must forward their applications to the Ministry of Interior, General Directorate of National Security, wherever their last posting may have been. Concerning the personnel belonging to the other bodies, only those policemen who were stationed in the Dakar region are requested to forward their applications to the Ministry of Interior. All others should forward their applications to the office of the governor of the region where they were stationed. [passage omitted]

SIERRA LEONE

Seventeen Persons To Stand Trial for Treason
AB041855 Paris AFP in French 1828 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Freetown, 4 May (AFP) — Seventeen civilians and five officers of the security services will be tried for "treason" next Wednesday [6 May], according to informed sources in Freetown today.

Among the civilians are former first Vice President Francis Minah; a former top police officer, Gabriel Kaikai; and a Lebanese citizen, Gazim Alie.

The charges follow the 23 March abortive coup which resulted in the detention of 44 persons. A group of foreign lawyers, expected to defend a number of the accused, is expected in Sierra Leone tomorrow.

Foreign Minister Koroma To Visit ROK 5 May
AB042125 Paris AFP in French 2005 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Freetown, 4 May (AFP) — It was announced in Freetown today that Sierra Leonean Foreign Minister Alhaji Abdul Karim Koroma will begin a 5-day visit to the ROK tomorrow at the invitation of his counterpart, Choe Kwang-su. Alhaji Koroma will hold talks on Wednesday [6 April] and Thursday with Mr Choe, and will also meet President Chon Tu-hwan and Prime Minister No Sin-yong.

TOGO

Workers Praise President Eyadema on May Day
AB021836 Lome Domestic Service in French
 0615 GMT 2 May 87

[Excerpts] Yesterday, 1 May, was Labor Day. This occasion was celebrated all over the world, although the form of celebration differed from one place to another. The similarity, however, in the form of celebration of this international Labor Day, was the fact that there were processions everywhere, although there were some differences in these as well.

In Lome, for example, there were two processions yesterday. The first was that of the Togolese labor force united within the unique labor union, the National Confederation of Togolese Workers. It was a procession of solidaristic workers, who headed for a common meeting place, the University of Benin [in Togo], where they held a picnic to mark their day. The second procession was of basins, bowls, plates, and other utensils containing cooked food, and of cases of beer and soft drinks to quench the thirst of these Togolese workers who, yesterday, joyfully celebrated President Eyadema's judicious policies towards them. [passage omitted]

When the workers arrived at the University of Benin, they sang the national and workers' anthems. They observed a minute's silence in honor of their departed comrades, and they also presented their traditional list of requests to the government. There were speeches as well as the presentation of a special motion of thanks, congratulations, and support to the head of state. In the motion, the Togolese workers congratulated President Gnassingbe Eyadema for his continued praiseworthy efforts at helping workers. They encouraged him to pursue the gigantic task of nation building which he undertook over 2 decades ago. They prayed to God and the ancestors to watch over the founding chairman of the RPT [Rally of the Togolese People] and his whole family, and to grant him long life to guide Togo towards a better future. [passage omitted]

ANGOLA

Army Kills 18 UNITA 'Bandits' in Cuanza Sul
MB041435 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
 1200 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] The Angolan Army is continuing to inflict heavy defeats on the enemies of the revolution who seek to destabilize the People's Republic of Angola politically and economically. A number of operations have been launched against the last remnants of the UNITA puppet gang. Our provincial correspondent has the details:

The gallant fighters of the 7th Military Region stationed in the municipality of Seles, Cuanza Sul Province, killed 18 UNITA armed bandits in the last 2 weeks of April. They also captured large quantities of war materiel of imperialist origin.

An official source said that the operations launched by FAPLA forces in the Catanda and Ambona communes resulted in the release of over 1,500 civilians who had been abducted by the armed bandits in the service of racist South Africa. Six UNITA members were captured during the operation, which also resulted in the recovery of five heads of cattle stolen by the puppets from the defenseless population.

BOTSWANA

President Masire Returns From Zimbabwe
MB042020 Gaborone Domestic Service in English
 1910 GMT 4 May 87

[Excerpt] The president, Dr Quett Masire, arrived back in Gaborone this afternoon from Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, where he performed the official opening of Zimbabwe international trade fair. Dr Masire was met at the airport by the vice president and minister of finance and development planning, Mr Peter Mmusi. The president was accompanied to Bulawayo by the first lady, Mrs Gladys Masire, and the minister for presidential affairs and public administration, Mr Ponatshego Kedikilwe. [passage omitted]

MOZAMBIQUE

Tanzania's Nyerere Arrives for Visit 2 May

Welcomed at Airport
MB021612 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
 1030 GMT 2 May 87

[Excerpt] Julius Nyerere, chairman of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi [CCM] of Tanzania, has been in Maputo since this morning. Here is a report filed by our correspondent Teresa Lima on Nyerere's arrival:

[Lima] Julius Nyerere, chairman of the CCM of Tanzania, has just landed at Maputo International Airport. At this very moment, he is being embraced and welcomed by Joaquim Chissano, chairman of the Frelimo Party and president of the People's Republic of Mozambique.

Julius Nyerere is also being greeted by Army General Alberto Joaquim Chipande, member of the Political Bureau and minister of national defense; Comrade Mario da Graça Machungo, member of the Political Bureau and prime minister; Comrade Pascoal Mocumbi, member of the Central Committee, Central Committee secretary for external relations, and minister of foreign affairs.

Also present here at the airport to welcome the distinguished visitor are members of the Frelimo Party Political Bureau and Central Committee, officials from the mass democratic organizations and sociocultural organizations, as well as members of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Mozambique. [passage omitted]

Also present here at the airport to welcome the distinguished visitor are members of the Frelimo Party Political Bureau and Central Committee, officials from the mass democratic organizations and sociocultural organizations, as well as members of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Mozambique. [passage omitted]

Opens Talks With Chissano

MB021815 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
 1730 GMT 2 May 87

[Text] Our people are greatly strengthened by the close links between Mozambique and Tanzania. Joaquim Chissano, chairman of the Frelimo Party, said this in Maputo today. Chairman Chissano was speaking at the opening session of official talks between the Frelimo Party and the Chama Cha Mapinduzi [CCM] on the occasion of Chairman Julius Nyerere's visit to Mozambique. The leader of the Mozambican revolution also highlighted the intense activity in which the Frelimo Party and the CCM have engaged in recent days. Hence, he described the visit as timely for exchange of views on current issues.

Chairman Joaquim Chissano referred to the existing solidarity in political and military fields between the two countries and pointed out that a few days ago he had met with Tanzanian soldiers and officers taking part in the defense of our country's integrity. Joaquim Chissano also spoke of how the Tanzanian soldiers were happily welcomed by our people, thus strengthening popular unity between the two countries.

In turn, CCM Chairman Julius Nyerere noted that it was the first time he had visited Mozambique after the appointment of Joaquim Chissano to the highest posts of the party and the state. Julius Nyerere took the opportunity to congratulate President Joaquim Chissano and his comrades on their new responsibilities. Thereafter, Chairman Julius Nyerere said that the aim of his visit to Mozambique, leading an important delegation and accompanied by Alberto Chipande, a member of the Political Bureau and minister of national defense, laid a wreath at the Mozambican Heroes Square.

Chairman Julius Nyerere arrived at Maputo International Airport at 0945, beginning a 24-hour visit to Mozambique. At about 1030, the CCM chairman began his official contacts by meeting with the governor of the Bank of Mozambique. At 1130, Chairman Julius Nyerere, leading his delegation and accompanied by Alberto Chipande, a member of the Political Bureau and minister of national defense, laid a wreath at the Mozambican Heroes Square.

The CCM delegation led by Julius Nyerere includes (Kinguje Kombale Mbiro), a member of the Central Committee and chairman of the Tanzanian-Mozambican joint commission; (Asai Tandau), a member of the CCM Central Committee and chairman of the Mozambique Aid Fund; and Major General (Natepe), a member of the Central Committee and member of the political commission of the people's defense forces.

Talks 'Very Successful'

*EA031538 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili
1000 GMT 3 May 87*

[Text] Maputo — President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique has said that his talks with Mwalimu [Teacher] Nyerere, the Chama Cha Mapinduzi [CCM] chairman, on relations between the CCM and Mozambique's ruling Frelimo Party were very successful. Addressing a dinner party in honor of Mwalimu Nyerere and his delegation in Maputo last night, Mr Chissano, who is also Frelimo president, gave no further details. However, the Mozambican leader said the goal of Mwalimu Nyerere's visit was to strengthen relations between the CCM and Frelimo.

Mwalimu Nyerere, who is also the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement's cooperation commission, has since left for Lusaka for talks tomorrow on the commission's work with President Kaunda of Zambia. Mwalimu Nyerere will then leave for Harare for talks with Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, again on the work of the commission.

The CCM chairman is expected to return to Dodoma to attend the session of the National Executive Committee, which begins in Dodoma on Thursday.

Nyerere Departs 3 May

*MB031406 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese
1030 GMT 3 May 87*

[Text] Julius Nyerere, chairman of Tanzania's Chama Cha Mapinduzi Party, left Maputo this morning after a 1-day visit to Mozambique. He was seen off by President Joaquim Chissano and other Mozambican party and government officials at Maputo airport.

During talks between the two delegations in Maputo yesterday, President Chissano stressed the role played by Tanzanian soldiers side by side with the Mozambican Armed Forces to defend the Mozambican people from aggression by the South African-backed armed bandits.

On the occasion, Julius Nyerere said that the aim of his visit to Mozambique was to convey the solidarity of the party, government, and Armed Forces of Tanzania with Mozambique.

NAMIBIA

Two Policemen Killed by SWAPO in North
*MB041214 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1207 GMT 4 May 87*

[Text] Windhoek, May 4, SAPA — Two members of the SWA police force were killed by SWAPO insurgents in Northern SWA/Namibia at the weekend, SWABC radio news reported in Windhoek.

A police spokesman said the dead were Constable Erick Brink and Special Constable Paulus Kandji, both of Opuwa in Kaokoland.

Details of the circumstances leading to their deaths were not disclosed.

Nujoma: SWAPO Ready for Cease-Fire 'Any Time'
*MB041939 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1934 GMT 4 May 87*

[Text] Lusaka, May 4, SAPA — SWAPO was prepared to sign a ceasefire with South Africa anywhere and at any time, SWAPO President Mr Sam Nujoma, said in Lusaka today, ZIANA, the Zimbabwe semi-official news agency, reported.

He told delegates to the World Council of Churches meeting on South Africa and SWA/Namibia in Lusaka SWAPO was willing to sign such a ceasefire to pave the way for the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 435.

"The fact that the resolution is not implemented is solely the responsibility of the Botha regime which refused to cooperate with the (UN) secretary-general to implement that resolution and bring about peace and stability," he said.

In response to allegations that liberation movements were "communist," Mr Nujoma said all that was required of a member of SWAPO was opposition to all forms of foreign domination, a readiness to fight for and if necessary die for the freedom and independence and a commitment to unity.

SWAPO was opposed to exploitation of man by man and believed in social justice, he added.

"We believe after independence Namibia must have the power to check the excesses of capitalistic greed.

"This is not the same as communism," he said.

SWAPO was a liberation movement and this should not be confused with a political party, he said.

He said SWAPO did not glorify war, it was forced to take up arms.

"To those who advise us not to fight colonialism with arms in hand, our answer is, show us the non-violent means to Namibian

independence and we will follow," he said.

He called for pressure on South Africa and the U.S. to abandon the linking of SWA/Namibian independence with the presence of Cuban troops in Angola.

"SWAPO is committed to free and fair elections through the United Nations plan for Namibia.

"We will scrupulously adhere to UN Resolution 435 and abide by the decision of the Namibian people," he said.

Mr Nujoma called on the South African Government to accept the hand of friendship being extended by SWAPO.

He listed alleged atrocities committed by South African troops in Namibia, adding that in the past two weeks 14 schools in northern SWA/Namibia were burnt down.

He offered sympathy to the relatives of the victims of the South African incursion into Livingstone recently and praised Zambia for its commitment to the liberation struggle in the region.

SOUTH AFRICA

Police Break Up Witwatersrand Student Meeting

Magistrate Bans Gathering

*MB041156 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 4 May 87*

[Text] The acting chief magistrate of Johannesburg, Mr George Schoeman, has prohibited a meeting of NUSAS [National Union of South African Students] and the Black Student's Society which was scheduled to have begun on the campus of the University of the Witwatersrand at 12:30 this afternoon. The prohibition order has been issued in terms of the Internal Security Act. Mr Schoeman said he had reason to believe the meeting would have been a threat to public order. The prohibition is effective until 12:30 on Wednesday afternoon. The meeting was to have been addressed by Mrs Winnie Mandela.

Police Enter Campus

*MB041211 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1208 GMT 4 May 87*

[Text] Johannesburg, May 4 SAPA — A number of students were arrested after police entered the main campus of the University of the Witwatersrand to break up a student meeting declared illegal moments before it was due to begin today.

Police eventually charged students to disperse the meeting.

The meeting — due to have been addressed by Mrs Winnie Mandela — was banned by Johannesburg's chief magistrate at 12:20pm, according to student spokesmen.

The meeting was to have started at 12:35pm.

From about noon, students started gathering on the university's main lawns for the open air gathering. Mrs Mandela was to have addressed students on the state of the country in relation to the white election.

Mrs Mandela, escorted by ululating youths, arrived on the lawns shortly after a student spokesman told the gathering the meeting had been banned.

Mrs Mandela was escorted to the stage and told the audience through a student spokesman that banning the meeting would cause precisely the public disorder feared by the authorities.

A spokesman told students over the PA system that the meeting was peaceful and that senior members of the staff, including the dean of the faculty of law, had gone to the police in an attempt to allow the meeting to continue.

Contingents of riot police then started to gather around the periphery of the lawns and there was a tense stand-off between students and police. Students shouted at the police that the meeting was peaceful.

A student leader then urged those gathered to move off to the sports hall. The gathering then started to move in the direction of the hall. Scores of people entered the hall as staff members urged students through megaphones to disperse, saying the meeting was illegal.

An eye-witness said police charged at the sports hall after a half-brick was hurled at the police. As police entered the hall hecklers outside swore at police, calling them "Nazis" and chanting "ANC."

Another eye-witness said she saw about 70 people being removed by police.

Later, SRC [Student Representative Council] members told SAPA they had a list of 18 names of people who had been arrested, "but we think at least 50 were taken away."

Police Teargas Students

*MB041403 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1402 GMT 4 May 87*

[Text] Johannesburg May 4 SAPA — Teargas was fired on campus in another incident at the University of the Witwatersrand [Wits] this afternoon involving students and police, eye-witnesses said.

The violence came after students emerged from the canteen to attend a meeting with staff members in the great hall after a lunch-time meeting due to have been addressed by Mrs Winnie Mandela was banned.

Eye-witnesses said police fired teargas as the students approached the great hall for a meeting with the Wits Academic Staff Association, who have called for a stayaway at the university tomorrow and on Wednesday in protest at the election.

Students dispersed as the teargas was fired and then regrouped in front of the hall to be addressed by academics.

Prof Doug Hindson, told students "we will stay with you to ensure no more violent action is taken against students.

"The fundamental right of peaceful protest has been taken away. We want to re-establish this."

He said if the campus was not closed tomorrow and on Wednesday, "we will not lecture."

Shortly after he said this, police arrived and again fired teargas.

"It was more of an ambush," an eye-witness said. "At least 10 canisters (of teargas) were fired."

120 Students Reported Arrested

*MB041516 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1515 GMT 4 May 87*

[Text] Johannesburg, May 4 SAPA — Police arrested 120 students at a meeting on the Witwatersrand University Campus today, according to the police

The public relations division of the SAP said the students were arrested for attending a meeting arranged by NUSAS [National Union of South African Students] and the Black Students Society, which had been banned by Johannesburg's chief magistrate in terms of the Section 469(1) of the Internal Security Act.

The statement said that according to posters advertising the meeting it would have been addressed by Mrs Winnie Mandela and would have dealt with "your response to the election."

Police said at 1pm today a large number of students gathered between buildings on the campus where speakers began addressing the groups.

At about 1.15pm the police arrived on the campus and verbally informed those present that the gathering was illegal and were requested to dispersed.

The group refused to comply with the order and began throwing stones at the police and then moved into the Old Mutual sports hall. The police entered the hall and arrested 120 students.

The police statement said several slogans including "viva ANC and viva SACP," had been placed on the walls.

The announcement banning the meeting had been broadcast on the radio at 12.15pm and a notice was placed outside the hall where the meeting was due to have taken place.

4 Hurt 'Seriously'

*MB050452 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2229 GMT 4 May 87*

[Text] Johannesburg May 4 SAPA — At least 150 students had

been arrested at the University of the Witwatersrand today and a number of students, staff and journalists had been injured, four seriously, the Wits Students Representative Council [SRC] said tonight. "Two have been hospitalised with broken bones," an SRC statement said.

"In the aftermath of four hours of skirmishes with police, students estimated that about 40 teargas cannisters had been discharged. Students also found two rubber bullets near the university great hall," the statement said. "A number of students, staff and journalists were injured, four seriously. Two have been hospitalised with broken bones. Latest numbers of students arrested run as high as 150, all of whom have been released after being detained for eight hours at Hillbrow police station. Students have been charged with attending a forbidden meeting and warned to appear in court on May 26 or pay a R250 admission of guilt fine."

The statement said the SRC condemned the "irrational" response of the police to the "peaceful" gathering on the campus.

It said some 5000 students had gathered for a meeting called to "discuss an appropriate response" to Wednesday's election for whites, and rejected allegations that student stone-throwing sparked off the police action.

"The SRC continues to call for the right for peaceful protest and discussion on campus, believing that full political participation and freedom of expression for all are prerequisites for a just and democratic future South Africa."

In a separate statement the National Union of South African Students [NUSAS] similarly condemned the police action. "The decision of the students to call on admin to close the university tomorrow and on Wednesday is both the only way to prevent police from attacking students again, and registers our peaceful protest against the white elections — in support of the majority's call for a two-day national protest," NUSAS said.

[SAPA prefaces this item with the following message: "Repeating with warning that the following may contravene emergency regulations or the Police Act and has been sent to IPLC [Interdepartmental Press Liaison Center] for clearance.")

Newsman Detained, Released

*MB041641 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1640 GMT 4 May 87*

[Text] Johannesburg May 4 SAPA — Some 13 newsmen working for overseas media were detained and later released after a students meeting at the University of the Witwatersrand [Wits] erupted into violence today.

The meeting was banned in terms of the Internal Security Act some 15 minutes before its scheduled start just after 12.30pm. It was to have been addressed by Mrs Winnie Mandela on the theme of the state of the country in relation to the white election.

Riot police entered Wits main campus to disperse the gathering and violence erupted which overseas and local newsmen filmed

and photographed.

Several photographers' films were confiscated on the spot and eye-witnesses said they saw some television news crews being led away.

Spokesmen for the various overseas television crews — including ABC, CBS, NBC, ITN and Visnews — said staffers had been detained for periods from just under an hour to three hours. Photographers from *Time* magazine, *Reuter* and *Associated Press* also were detained for some hours, according to spokesmen and newsmen.

A Natal Supreme Court ruling recently overturned sections of the media regulations concerning coverage of unrest-related incidents, and newsmen on the scene said they were operating "as normal".

But police tonight issued a statement saying they were operating under the regulations as they stood before they were overturned in view of the fact that an appeal had been lodged by the state.

Police would continue to operate under the overturned regulations until the result of the appeal was known, the statement said.

Almost 500,000 Workers Join National Slowdown
MB051235 Johannesburg SABA in English
 1233 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] Johannesburg May 5 SABA — Almost 500,000 workers nationwide stayed away from work today, half on the Witwatersrand, according to a spokesman for the Labour Monitoring Group [LMG].

Preliminary figures released by the LMG, which is monitoring the two-day stayaway, showed the PWV [Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging] area and the eastern Cape received the most support for the call to protest against tomorrow's elections.

"In the PWV it seems that in the manufacturing industry 43 per cent of African workers stayed away, in retail upwards of 75 per cent and transport 45 per cent," the spokesman said.

"In the eastern Cape the stayaway was almost total amongst African workers (98-99 per cent) and about 35 per cent amongst coloured workers in all sectors but especially manufacturing and retail.

"In Durban and Pinetown estimates are 60 per cent amongst Africans in all sectors.

"In Cape Town the average was five per cent, including both coloured and African but in the factories which have a COSATU union it was 22 per cent," he said.

White Elections Protested

MB050755 Johannesburg SABA in English
 0749 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] Johannesburg May 5 SABA — Tens of thousands of workers across the Reef and the Vaal Triangle stayed home today as part of the national protest against tomorrow's all white elections.

Soweto streets were deserted this morning. There were few buses and taxis.

Unlike the stayaway staged a fortnight ago in protest against Soweto rent evictions — when desperate workers lined the main routes thumbing lifts to town — the main taxi and bus routes were almost deserted.

Messages were broadcast over Soweto from a low-flying red-and-white aircraft advising residents that the security forces would protect them if they went to work, eyewitnesses said.

Anonymous pamphlets were distributed in various townships yesterday demanding that residents take certain action today and tomorrow. The central demands may not be reported in terms of emergency regulations. The pamphlet stressed that residents should conduct themselves in "a disciplined and united way." It listed four key demands:

"Stop raids into neighbouring states."

"Scrap the racist parliament."

"Unban the African National Congress and release political prisoners."

"One person one vote in a united South Africa."

The Congress of South African Trade Unions and the United Democratic Front have also called for two days of peaceful protest nationwide for today and tomorrow.

The Federated Chamber of Industries and Association of Chambers of Commerce have advised their members to adopt a no-work-no-pay policy during the stayaway.

The situation in Tembisa, the largest township on the East Rand, was quiet early today as thousands stayed away from work.

Trains travelling between the various stations in the township and the industrial areas of Isando, Elandsfontein and Kempton Park were running empty. PUTCO [Public Utility Transport Corporation] buses operating in the township were escorted by members of the Defence Force but they carried no passengers.

A PUTCO spokesman in Johannesburg said bus drivers in the region had stayed away from work today and as a result the company could not provide transport.

The huge Vaal complex of Sebokeng-Evaton was totally without public transport today, the Vaal Transport Corporation reported. A spokesman said no buses were running from Evaton and

Sebokeng, and that it seemed taxi services had also been suspended. Normal bus services were operating from Sharpeville.

The Greater Soweto chamber of Commerce and Industry decided at its executive meeting last week that Soweto shops would remain open during this week's planned stayaway, the executive director of the chamber, Mr David Mailoane, said yesterday. "Even although people will stay away from their workplaces, it is essential they are able to buy food," he commented. Mr Mailoane said he urged Soweto residents to remain calm during the stayaway and "give it the dignity it deserves."

Many commuters were stranded in Eldorado Park where shops were closed today and where they will remain shut tomorrow as well.

'Massive Support' for Boycott

*MB050729 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0728 GMT 5 May 87*

[Text] Johannesburg, May 5, SAPA — A stayaway on the Witwatersrand to protest against tomorrow's elections got off to an effective start with PUTCO [Public Utility Transport Corporation] and the South African Transport Services [SATS] reporting services running at 20-25 percent capacity this morning.

"We're offering only a very limited service because 75 percent of 4000 drivers on the reef have stayed away," PUTCO PRO [Public Relations Officer] Mr Robin Duff said. "It seems fairly well orchestrated. We've always been able to rely on drivers. They usually say if they are going to stayaway. This time they didn't say a word. Where there are buses, they are running full," he said.

He said the stayaway seemed better organised than the rent protest stayaway two weeks ago. "I believe the taxis are off the road too."

Resident and workers in central Johannesburg said the city was a lot less busy than usual for a work day. "I have yet to see one mini-bus taxi," one worker said.

Despite apparent massive support for the stayaway the situation was quiet in Reef townships, according to reports received from drivers who had arrived for work, the PUTCO spokesman added.

"A bus was petrol bombed in Atteridgeville (near Pretoria) last night but otherwise it seems there are no roadblocks and no intimidation. It seems very low key."

In Durban, however, there were reports of roadblocks and burning tyres in townships, Mr Duff said.

A SATS PRO said peak hour occupancy of trains from the east Rand, the West Rand, Soweto and Pretoria started off at 20.5 percent full at 5:15am and dwindled to seven percent at 7:15am. At 8am support for the service was 10.2 per cent. She said the trains were running on time along their normal routes.

Black workers at Johannesburg station estimated later that

trains were carrying only between 10 and 20 percent of their normal daily commuter load.

Most shops in central Johannesburg were quiet this morning as most of their staff did not seem to have turned up.

Stores from curtaining shops to coffee bars had their white labour force working to capacity to make up for the non-arrival of black staff.

The proprietor of a curtain store, Mr K. Marx, said that only two of his staff of about 15 had arrived for work today. "The two that came in were offered a lift and had to leave the township very, very early."

A coffee bar in Johannesburg was not able to deliver its normal round of early morning breakfast to nearby offices as only one of their staff of six had arrived.

Buses Stoned in Durban

*MB050800 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0737 GMT 5 May 87*

[Text] Durban, May 5, SAPA — Twelve PUTCO [Public Utility Transport Corporation] buses were stoned this morning in Inanda, KwaMashu and Ntuzuma and another bus owned by Ilanga transport was gutted as a black stayaway took hold in the Durban area.

But PUTCO reported that it was "still maintaining its normal service from the townships to Durban — for the time being anyway."

One PUTCO bus driver was injured when flying glass got into his eyes. He was taken to hospital for treatment.

According to the PUTCO spokesman, the stone-throwing began about 7am. "The troubled areas are being patrolled. Masses of schoolchildren are marching through streets in the townships but they scatter when they come across ... patrols," he said. The spokesman said if the trouble continued, PUTCO might have to "rethink continuing its services."

Most of the damaged vehicles had windscreens smashed by stones.

Milk deliveries in Durban were almost non-existent this morning and some office workers had to go to tea rooms to buy milk for their morning tea and coffee.

Cape Town Response 'Patchy'

*MB051146 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1142 GMT 5 May 87*

[Text] Cape Town May 5 SAPA — Cape Town response at work and in schools to the national stayaway appeal patchy today. The stayaway was called by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and the United Democratic Front (UDF).

South African Transport Services spokesman Mr Luther Diedericks said passenger loads had been normal today, but the peak was spread over a longer period than usual.

Mr Bob Krause, City Tramways spokesman, noted the same phenomenon. Staff levels were normal, he said.

The Labour Monitoring Group, an independent survey group, said after completing about one-third of their calls that response to the stayaway appeared to be limited.

But a spokesman for Dairy Belle said the whole workforce was absent. Deliveries to supermarkets and cafes were not affected, but no home deliveries were being made.

Mr Thinus Dempsey, liaison officer for the Department of Education and Culture in the House of Representatives, said attendance at coloured high schools ranged from almost normal to complete stayaway.

Most offices of unions affiliated to COSATU were closed.

Spokesman for municipal departments said the stayaway had not been of major significance.

There was little activity on UCT [University of Cape Town] campus as staff, workers and students heeded the stayaway call. Last night principal and vice-chancellor of the university, Dr Stuart Saunders, said no one would be penalised if they took today and tomorrow off.

Lectures at University of Western Cape have been cancelled for the two days.

Vlok Assures Voter Safety at Polling Stations

*MB050540 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0019 GMT 5 May 87*

[Text] Verwoedburg May 4 SAPA — The minister of law and order, Mr Adriaan Vlok, today assured voters their personal safety would not be endangered at the polling stations on Wednesday, and told them not to heed rumours to the contrary.

Addressing an audience of about 200 people in his Verwoedburg constituency, he said these rumours were the intimidation methods of the enemy to break confidence and bring people to the point of not exercising their political right by voting. The measures taken by the police and the South African Defence Force on May 6 would ensure public safety so that democracy could be exercised. The police were fully aware of the plans the enemy had and they were prepared in those situations.

He said the police action taken today at the University of the Witwatersrand was necessary because, as had been seen last week, students were incited and capable of running into the street to endanger the lives of passers-by through stone throwing.

"We have the right to be heard. This is why it is essential that we take action against people who disturb the peace."

Mr Vlok said the lowest points in the election campaign were the "ghastly" rumours and lies spread by opposition parties. Mr Vlok said he took exception to the description by PFP members, who were said to have described the police as being "the real terrorists" in South Africa. He was quoting from a document compiled by Mr Horace van Renburg, breakaway from the PFP and independent in Bryanston, who said certain PFP members who had visited African National Congress members in Lusaka had said the ANC were intelligent, and well-mannered and it was the South African Police who were the terrorists.

Mr Vlok said the recent press photograph of Mrs Helen Suzman embracing Mrs Winnie Mandela made him wonder if she was not perhaps closer to Mrs Mandela than she was "with us, who on May 6 are out to protect the voters" and democracy.

Police Aware of Election Disruption Plans

*MB041102 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1056 GMT 4 May 87*

[Text] Pretoria May 4 SAPA — Police were fully aware of planned action by certain radical organisations and individuals to disrupt and discredit Wednesday's elections for whites and steps had already been taken to "foil" them, the commissioner of police, General Johann Coetzee, said today.

In an interview in Pretoria he said security forces would be out in full strength and well prepared to handle any attempt to disrupt or discredit the elections.

Examples of the type of action being planned included bringing busloads of black children to polling stations, ostensibly on "educational tours," but really to create confrontation with the police and voters for international propaganda purposes.

Another was walkouts of classes at certain universities while school boycotts were also planned.

Students would then be encouraged to go on protest marches specifically to precipitate confrontation.

A third planned action Gen Coetzee outlined was work stoppages and stayaways through intimidation designed to focus attention away from the elections.

"We are aware of other specific actions which I would not like to mention for obvious reasons," he said.

"However, because we are aware of these actions we have been able to be well prepared to handle any attempt to disrupt or discredit this election by means of violence and other illegal actions."

He appealed to the public to report any untoward action to the police.

The authorities had been briefed in detail from a "wide range" of sources and this intelligence had been properly evaluated, as a result of which police were confident they were fully aware of planned action.

"It is obvious there is a great deal of interest in this election, both at home and abroad and that the turnout at the polls is expected to be very high.

"Our information is that this is frustrating to certain radical organisations and individuals and that plans have been made to divert attention away from the elections as much as possible.

"The purpose is to try and make out the elections are irrelevant.

"It is known that the African National Congress, for example, has instructed that there be a coordinated campaign with political, diplomatic and military dimensions."

Gen Coetzee reiterated that security forces were in complete control of the situation and that people need have no fear of going to the polls on election day as every possible measure had been taken to protect voters and officials.

He stressed that the success of the smooth running of the elections lay with the public's cooperation with the police.

"I am satisfied we have taken everything into account and that we are prepared for the various contingencies.

"I want to assure voters that the police will be out in full strength and every available man will see to the smooth running of the elections," he said.

Commentary Urges Voters To Give Clear Mandate
MB050537 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
 0500 GMT 5 May 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] At the time of the announcement that a general election was to be held for the House of Assembly, we identified in morning comment four issues on which the electorate would be required to give judgment. These were reform, national security, foreign intervention and the economy.

As South Africa stood up to sanctions and the disinvestment campaign proved to be something of a toothless bulldog, the influence of the United States and other western countries waned within South Africa and foreign intervention diminished in importance as an election issue. Similarly, the improved economic conditions and the better agricultural climate of the past few months have kept the economy from becoming a dominant issue in the election campaign.

At the outset of the campaign, the dominant election issue was how the political face of South Africa should look in the future, and today, on the eve of polling, this remains the major issue on which the electorate must give its judgment. The question that must be answered tomorrow is how the aspirations of the many minorities in our plural society are to be satisfied and safeguarded in an equitable manner, and, more specifically, whether the present program and pace of reform should be continued with or whether it should be expedited, as some would have, or halted and even turned back as others would have.

Coupled with this is the question of the revolutionary onslaught, a question that has assumed increasing importance during the election campaign as extraparliamentary groups have sought to influence the outcome of the election through acts of violence, intimidation and terrorism. No administration can conduct an adequate political program under the threat of subversive activity aimed at undermining the very basis of democracy itself.

The future of South Africa does not lie exclusively in the hands of the electorate which will be voting tomorrow. But that electorate does have the responsibility of providing a mandate from within its own political constituency as to how negotiations are to be conducted with other political constituencies. It is a responsibility no voter should turn his or her back on tomorrow, for a clear mandate will be required on the reform issue and the question of national security if South Africa is to enter the future with confidence and from a position of strength.

Desmond Tutu Comments on 'Undemocratic' Election
MB011152 Johannesburg SAPA in English
 1147 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] Cape Town, May 1, SAPA — It was clear that the election was being held at a time when many people were awakening to the fact that there will be no peace in South Africa until there was justice, Archbishop Desmond Tutu said today.

Speaking at a press conference at Bishops Court he said he wished to condemn the SADF raid into Zambia and the "senseless killing of two Zambian nationals", just as he condemned the necklacing of SATS [South African Transport Services] employees and the actions of the police against COSATU.

He said the country was facing a very disturbing time.

The state president, Mr P.W. Botha, was taking a "kragdadige" [forceful] approach in the election, especially in his attitude to the ANC.

Mr Botha was not prepared to tolerate even peaceful opposition and the government had become increasingly intransigent and totalitarian.

"If we look at the country at present it appears that peaceful protest is a thing of the past," Archbishop Tutu said.

The present atmosphere of peace and calm was only superficial. There was a real danger of black eruption, he warned.

Noting the recent police actions at the University of Cape Town and the University of the Western Cape, he said it was quite clear that the election was being held at a time when many people were awakening to the fact that there could be no peace until there was justice.

"Christians should approach the election aware that they are answerable to Christ," he said.

It would be a "racist and totally undemocratic election" which excluded 73 per cent of the population.

"By and large blacks regarded it (the election) as yet another example of white insensitivity. They are speaking about us blacks deciding about us, and yet not speaking to us, not deciding with us.

"The election, like all others before, was about blacks about their place in the life of the country," Archbishop Tutu said.

He said some white Christians would not vote in the election because they wished to show solidarity with the disenfranchised.

Others would vote against oppression and injustice and forced removals.

"White Christians must ask themselves if their action will help to bring about the downfall of apartheid and its perpetrators," the archbishop said.

There was no way whites could "will away" the ANC. One day there would have to be negotiations with the ANC.

Future generations would ask why their ancestors had been so crazy for so long and Jesus would ask people why they allowed apartheid to go on for so long, he said.

Sympathetic to Trade Unions

*MB011302 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1251 GMT 1 May 87*

[Text] Johannesburg May 1 SAPA — The head of the Anglican Church in South Africa, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, has said predictions made several years ago about the trade unions becoming the cutting edge of the liberation struggle had been ignored by the government, SABC radio news reports.

He said in Cape Town today while he did not entirely agree with some of the methods used by trade unions, he was in sympathy with their philosophy that they could not simply be concerned with the wellbeing of their members in the workplace alone.

Archbishop Tutu said more legislation to control unions would serve to only increase frustrations.

Land Mine Kills 1, Injures 10 in Messina
*MB050627 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0624 GMT 5 May 87*

[Text] Pretoria May 5 SAPA — One person was killed and 10 injured — three seriously — when the wheel of a truck detonated a landmine near Messina last night, the Bureau for Information in Pretoria said today.

A bureau spokesman said the incident occurred at 8:30pm on the farm Moroi about three kilometres south of the Limpopo River and 10km west of Messina.

The truck's driver was killed and 10 people were injured. The Bureau spokesman said three of those hurt were "in a serious condition."

No further information was immediately available but the bureau would issue a statement later, he said.

Two Blasts Reported at Johannesburg Civic Center
*MB050432 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0117 GMT 5 May 87*

[Text] Johannesburg May 5 SAPA — Two blasts ripped through Johannesburg early this morning in the vicinity of the municipal Civic Centre causing minimal damage, initial reports said.

A police spokesman in Pretoria confirmed the blasts at the Civic Centre between 12:40 and 1:20 this morning.

According to private reports, a cordon was thrown around the Civic Centre and there were a number of fire engines on the east side of the building.

One witness said the only visible damage was a hole in a pole on the eastern side of the complex and a damaged paving stone.

SAPA received a number of telephone calls which described a "big bang" near town. The calls were from suburbs between three and six kilometres east and north of the Braamfontein municipal offices. By 12:45am five calls had been received.

At about 1:20am another blast was heard from SAPA's central Johannesburg offices. There was only a large bang but none of the noise that usually accompanies an explosion — like the sound of glass breaking.

The police spokesman said the Bureau for Information in Pretoria would issue a statement about the incident later this morning.

Minor Damage Reported

*MB050640 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0635 GMT 5 May 87*

[Text] Pretoria May 5 SAPA — Paving stones and lamp standards were damaged in two explosions at the Johannesburg Civic Centre early this morning, the Bureau for Information said today.

A bureau spokesman said the first blast was at 12:45am "on the ground level of the building between B and D blocks."

He said the explosives were placed under the paving stones.

Some paving stones, pillar were damaged, the bureau said.

The second blast was at 1:20am in the east wing of the building.

The device was placed against a lamp standard and about six lamps were damaged, the bureau said.

No one was injured in either explosion.

Police are investigating and it is not known at this stage what sort

of devices were used or their origins.

Police Suspect Limpet Mines

MB050435 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0133 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] Johannesburg, May 5, SAPA — It is believed that mini-limpet mines may have caused the blasts at Johannesburg's Civic Centre this morning, police said.

Col F.G. Malherbe, police liaison officer for the Witwatersrand said the blasts occurred at the Civic Centre at 12:45 and 1:20am.

He said that one explosion put a hole in a lamp standard and blew the glass shade off.

The other blast damaged "about six lamp shades," he said.

No one was injured.

It is not known what caused the explosions but police are investigating the possibility that they were caused by mini-limpet mines he said.

Grenade Explodes on Cape Railroad Track

MB050819 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0819 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] Cape Town, May 5, SAPA — A handgrenade blast occurred between Netreg and Heideveld stations outside Cape Town about 1:50am this morning, residents of Bonteheuwel said.

Nobody was injured and little damage was caused, they added.

The grenade ripped a hole in the ground next to the track under a bridge, but caused little damage.

Shortly afterwards two petrol bombs were thrown at the house of a woman police constable in Bonteheuwel. Only one petrol bomb ignited on the grass outside the house and little damage was caused.

Information Bureau Issues 4 May Unrest Report

MB051040 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1035 GMT 5 May 87

[Text] Pretoria May 5 SAPA — Following is the Bureau for Information's daily unrest report:

"Unrest report period 00h01 to 24h00 (4 May)

"In Atteridgeville (Pretoria) three black men last night set a bus light after pouring petrol into it. Considerable damage was caused to the vehicle. One man was arrested. No injuries were reported.

"At 20h30 last night, a lorry set off a landmine with its right front wheel on the farm Moloi about 10km west of Messina and

3km south of the Limpopo River. The driver was killed in the explosion and ten people were injured, three seriously. All were black persons. Eight of the injured were taken to hospital in Messina while 2 were taken to the hospital in Pietersburg. The lorry belongs to a contractor.

"There was an explosion early this morning on the railway line between Heideveld and Netreg in the western Cape. No damage, injuries or arrests have been reported.

"At about 01h00 this morning there was an explosion in the Civic Centre in Braamfontein (Johannesburg). The explosives were allegedly hidden under the paving and only the paving and a nearby pillar were damaged. A second explosion at about 01h20 occurred in the eastern wing of the complex where explosives had been placed against a lamp post. Only the post was damaged in the attack. No injuries or arrests were reported. The type and origin of the devices has not yet been determined.

"Other unrest-related incidents reported during the above-mentioned period comprised isolated stonings and petrol bomb attacks. No injuries or arrests were reported and damage was indicated as being minimal."

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

MB050752 [Editorial Report]

CITIZEN: No NP Surrender To Foreign Intervention

"Today the outside world, including the United States, is demanding Black majority rule," notes Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 4 May in its page 6 editorial. "We must resist the demand by showing our faith in a government that will not surrender this country's sovereignty to any outside power." "If you want controlled reform without surrender, if you want to give the Blacks a message that the government is not only committed to reform but is going to include them in its plans, if you want the ANC to know there is no place for it in negotiating a new order unless it abandons violence, and if you want to tell the outside world to keep its grubby paws off South Africa, you will vote for the National Party."

STAR Critical of Judiciary in Politics

A page 12 editorial in Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 4 May remarks that Chris Ball of the First National Bank has been "'found guilty of advancing money' for an ANC ad." "It is necessary to remember that natural justice did not apply here. There was no 'accused' but the man in the spotlight was found just as 'guilty' as if there had been. The commission meted out no sentence, but punished just the same. The tenet of presumed innocence which must be convincingly disproved in a trial was, in the nature of things, suspended." "Politicians love the veneer of judicial endorsement when they play rough politics. Down the years, judges have participated in inquiries that are primarily political in nature. It is possible to say, without fear of contradiction, that none of them did anything for the prestige and dignity of the Bench. Next time the State President requires dirty linen to be washed in public, we suggest the courts invite him to do the job himself."

BUSINESS DAY on Control of Funds Into RSA

"There would be less extra parliamentary activity if more people were democratically represented in Parliament; the remedy lies not in more repression, but in reform," notes a page 6 editorial in *Johannesburg Business Day* in English on 4 May. "But since that is not likely to occur soon, a warning does need to be sounded: it is not imperative for the Nationalists to be ham-handed in their methods. Attempts to control the flow of funds into the country will throw up a multitude of unpleasant side-effects and, like all such bans, have more effect in stifling the law-abiding than in checking the law breakers."

Police Action Against Necklacing Justified

"Like apartheid, 'necklacing' is a uniquely evil South African contribution to the catalogue of man's inhumanities," notes a second editorial on the same page. "The police last Wednesday surrounded COSATU House while they hunted through the building for suspects in the 'necklacing' of four railway workers whose only sin was to try to work. Initially, they acted under a warrant but later, in the face of a threatened legal challenge, claimed to be acting in terms of the emergency regulations and the Criminal Procedure Act. Either way, it is hard to think of a more legitimate reason for the police action, provided it was carried out in good faith, with a minimum of force, and provided the men arrested were humanely treated and brought to lawful trial. Subject to these provisos, we think the police action on this occasion was justified by the monstrosity and terrorist purpose of the crime."

NP Offers Only Fight for Security

"The most charming characteristic of the National Party is its boundless, almost childlike, ability to overlook its past failures; the most ominous characteristic is its inability to learn from experience," writes Ken Owen on the same page. Owen says the "collapse of apartheid as an ideology has left the National Party without any clear sense of direction. Now they say in the rural areas that the Group Areas Act will never be repealed, and in urban areas that they will reform; if they are not actually lying they are schizophrenic." "The Afrikaner elite, highly educated and sophisticated now, has seen through the mythology; the best and brightest know that the NP lacks the imagination, the flexibility, the political manoeuvrability to change, and that if it remains in power, the future will be a long, bitter fight for security, ending essentially as Rhodesia's fight ended."

SOWETAN Warns of Government Aggression

"It seems clear that while there are shifts and cracks in the monolith of the National Party, white voters will again vote a government into power that has brought this country almost to its knees," says the page 8 editorial in *Johannesburg Sowetan* in English on 4 May. "We are looking on with interest and a feeling of deep concern at those who have the future of our country and the future of our children in the palms of their hands. We must say we are not in the least made to feel confident about what is happening." "We can only caution our people to comport themselves with dignity and calm as we fear those in the desperate run to keep power in their sweaty hands are liable to act in aggressive and even irresponsible ways. We should give no one the chance of scoring political points over the safety of our people." "We know that as long as there is no democratic system of electing governments in South Africa we will not have peace."

Elections Ignore Real Force of Change

"All the white parties involved in the May 6 elections agree that South Africa is facing serious problems. All of them acknowledge that the solution to these problems lies in the hands of the black people," writes Muntu Myeza in the "Focus" column on the same page. Myeza says it is not strange that "blacks reject the white elections as an erection of yet another wall in the edifice of racial discrimination, economic superiority and social hegemony against black people." "Change lies in the streets of the ghettos prowled by ugly monsters. It lies in the hungry stomachs of workers who have nowhere to turn to. Change lies in the heart and minds of children who have learnt too many things too soon. Change lies in the anguish and torment of families torn apart by jail and migratory labour. That is the force of change that the white elections ignore." "It is this force that is equally unstoppable which the whites ignore at their peril. This force is black people. Given the scenario painted briefly here the whites engaged in the elections will bear the collective responsibility of driving our beloved and beautiful country towards the inevitable apocalypse."

BEELD: South Africans Uniting

Correspondent Dawie writes in the "From My Political Pen" column on page 8 of *Johannesburg Beeld* in Afrikaans on 2 May that "it appears South Africans are showing solidarity against foreign interference and against the revolutionary onslaught which is evidenced in the country. They do not want to be steam-rollered by interference or violence. They seek security." Dawie also says that "a strong mandate from the voters will serve as a message to black leaders that there is no other choice for them but to negotiate with the government."

BEELD on PFP 'Panic'

A page 8 editorial in *Johannesburg Beeld* in Afrikaans on 4 May says the PFP "panic is unmistakable" as can be seen by its full page advertisement in the weekend papers. But "it is no surprise since its credibility is threatened." *Beeld* doubts whether the PFP is able to regain its credibility by denying it is "in favor of the ANC, Communism, terrorism or violence. For most people, the manner in which the NP is attacked by the PFP is confirmation of their gnawing suspicions about the PFP."

SWAZILAND**Official Says Camps for Mozambicans 'Crowded'**

MB021318 Mbabane THE SWAZI OBSERVER in English 2 May 87 p 1

[By Thando Khumalo]

[Text] About 200 Mozambican Refugees enter the country every month, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Representative in Mbabane, Mr Ahmed Farah.

Mr Farah said refugee camps were crowded.

"We have been negotiating for land allocation. The Swaziland Government has done its part and, hopefully, something will come up soon" Mr Farah said.

The refugee problem was under control and there was cause for alarm.

"In other countries they are faced with more serious problems. The situation in this country is better, thanks to the co-operation between the Swaziland government and the other organisations concerned," Mr Fara said.

ZAMBIA

Kaunda on Break With IMF, UK Grant Withdrawal
MB041833 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] Hundreds of Lusaka residents today marched to State House to show their support for government in its latest move to abandon the International Monetary Fund. The demonstrators, who were led by Lusaka Governor Michael Sata, carried placards supporting President Kaunda's decision to scrap the foreign exchange auctioning which had brought much suffering in the country. President Kaunda made known the government's decision to distance itself from the IMF on Friday after a combined Central Committee-cabinet meeting. The meeting mainly discussed Prime Minister Musokotwane's recent talks with the IMF.

In addressing the demonstrators, President Kaunda said the decision to part with the IMF was a tough one which demanded hard work and discipline among Zambians. He said he had been

forced to nullify the IMF's program after observing that many dirty things resulted from Fund prescriptions.

And on the British move, President Kaunda said he was surprised by the British Government's decision to withdraw a 9.3 pound million [as heard] grant to Zambia. The British Government has said since the Zambian Government has failed to reach an agreement with the IMF it can no longer release the money. President Kaunda said he cannot understand how an independent government such as Britain's should allow the IMF to dictate how it should use the Fund. He said he was greatly disappointed that Britain could not even wait to see the progress of the new measures before deciding to withhold the fund.

ZIMBABWE

Tanzania's Nyerere, Mugabe Hold Discussions
MB041705 Harare Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 4 May 87

[Text] The former Tanzanian President, Mwalimu [Teacher] Julius Nyerere, arrived in Bulawayo today for talks with the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe. Soon after his arrival Comrade Nyerere, now chairman of Tanzania's ruling party, Chama Cha Mapinduzi, went straight into talks with Comrade Mugabe at state house in the city. Comrade Nyerere, who is also the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement's South-South Commission set up in Harare last year, is leading a 6-man Tanzanian delegation.

